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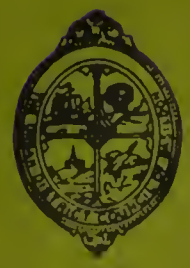
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ANNUAL REPORT 1968

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BASILDON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC
HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968

M. A. LARGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR FOR 1968

M. A. LARGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	M. J. Desmond, M.A.P.H.I.
Senior Public Health Inspector	J. K. Blakeley, M.A.P.H.I.
District Public Health Inspectors	D. R. Cotgrove, M.A.P.H.I. D. Coyne, M.A.P.H.I. D. G. Greenhalgh, M.A.P.H.I. J. E. Hillier, M.A.P.H.I. J. Holford, M.R.S.H. N. R. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I. G. G. Oxley, M.A.P.H.I. M. E. Salmon (resigned 15.4.68) N. Bannister (appointed 22.7.68)
Pupil Public Health Inspectors	C. J. Meadows R. P. Robinson (appointed 9.9.68)
Principal Clerk	J. W. Selvey, A.C.C.S., M.R.S.H.
Senior Clerk	Mrs. E. S. McAllister
Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary	Mrs. S. C. King (resigned 30.6.68) Mrs. J. G. Hagon (appointed 24.6.68 resigned 15.12.68) Mrs. M. P. Smith (appointed 16.12.68)
Clerical Staff	Mrs. M. A. Loomes Mrs. J. P. Strong
Telephonist	Mrs. J. B. Williamson
Rodent Operatives/General Assistants	L. A. May G. Ridgwell L. Ridgwell
Minibus Driver/General Assistant	W. S. Sheppard
Public Analysts	J. Hubert Hamence, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. P. S. Hall, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Veterinary Advisers	C. M. Newsholme, M.R.C.V.S. A. C. W. Fairhead, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. C. A. G. Felgate, M.R.C.V.S.

98A High Street,
Billericay,
Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Basildon.

In addition to providing information for the various Government Departments concerned, new Members of the Council will find in this Report an introduction into the Department's varied interests and objectives in the field of environmental health.

During the year the resignation was received of one of my experienced Inspectors who was recruited into the food industry by a most attractive salary, causing a vacancy which was to remain unfilled for three months and a resultant hiatus in the inspection programme of commercial premises in one quarter of the District. This apart, I am able to report satisfactory coverage generally of all aspects of the work of the Department, and to be able to do so at a time when the developing area constantly places heavier demands upon its services is a measure of the exceptional support which I continue to receive from a loyal and conscientious staff.

I am grateful also for the co-operation of officers of the other departments and for the support throughout the year of the Chairman and Members of the Welfare and Public Health Committee.

M. A. LARGE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Water Supplies

The supply to the Urban District was maintained satisfactorily during 1968 and no difficulties in this respect are foreseen by the Water Company in the immediate future. The population supplied by public water mains is now 120,337 and 37,256 dwelling units received a direct supply.

The quality of the public water supply in the Urban District is monitored daily by the Southend Waterworks Company from their works at Langford, near Maldon and at Hanningfield Reservoir. In addition, fortnightly analyses of water from wells and bore holes are made by the Company's chemists. Both the Company's examinations and the periodic check samples taken by my Department show the water supply for the Urban District to be satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically. The water is not plumbo solvent. The fluoride content varies depending upon the natural source and the point of sampling. Two samples analysed by the Department gave figures of 0.4 ppm and 0.15 ppm.

There was no evidence of contamination of water supplied by the Company although the Department as usual received a small number of complaints concerning discolouration or abnormal taste and also an allegation that the water supply was the cause of a skin rash affecting a whole family. On investigation these complaints were not substantiated.

Seven samples from main water supplies and six samples from other sources were taken during the year.

Water Main Extensions

The difficulty of reconciling the Council's duty under Section 28 of the Water Act 1945, to provide a sufficient supply of water to the houses in their district, and the future development of the fast expanding townships, again restricted the choice of main extensions to those which could be implemented without early mains redundancy. From a short list of seven roads, two were selected by the Welfare and Public Health Committee; Elm Road, North Benfleet and Osborne Road, Bowers Gifford. These extensions were to serve eight permanent and two week-end dwellings. The work was completed by the Southend Waterworks Company in July.

One and a half miles of three inch–nine inch diameter mains were laid by the Company during the year.

Water Deliveries

The Council's emergency water delivery service was used to supply water to 26 properties (38 visits) during the year. These properties are those depending upon the collection of rain water for their main supply. A total of 15,200 gallons was delivered, being less than half the gallonage delivered in the two previous years and reflects the very wet weather experienced in the latter part of 1968.

Domestic Standpipe Supplies

As a result of development of the District and the provision and extension of water mains, the number of public standpipes and key holders happily continues to reduce.

A total of 61 persons rented keys from the Council's 26 standpipes which are still in use. Three standpipes were demolished during the year and a further two are awaiting demolition. These figures do not take account of the eight standpipes in the Langdon Hills area which are the responsibility of the Southend Waterworks Company, but for which this Department is responsible for the issuing of keys. There are 52 current key holders for this group of standpipes.

Swimming Pools

Two new indoor swimming pools came into use during the year. In April, the Council's new Gloucester Park Swimming Pool was opened to the public and in October a new pool at Nicholas School, Basildon came into use. The total number of school pools in this District is now 11, three of which are indoor pools in use throughout the year. There are also three children's paddling pools in Council recreation grounds which are cleansed and chlorinated regularly throughout the summer months.

At Gloucester Park Swimming Pool, there is a main pool which is $33\frac{1}{3}$ metres long with a depth which varies between 3 ft. and 12 ft. 6 in., and a separate teaching pool 3 ft. deep. The water in the two pools is continuously recirculated, filtered and treated chemically. Automatic measuring instruments record the chlorine content and the pH value of the water and, in addition, frequent tests are carried out throughout the day by the staff to ensure that the water is in a satisfactory condition.

The new indoor pool at Nicholas School is equipped with sand filters and automatic dosing plant. Teething troubles were experienced in the first few days of its use, the main difficulty being in obtaining and maintaining a suitable pH level of the water. Once the correct pH level was reached, the condition of the water improved and it has remained consistently good ever since.

My staff visited every swimming pool and paddling pool in the district regularly during the year to carry out tests for chlorine content and the pH value of the water, and to take samples for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, all of which were found to be satisfactory. The tests carried out by my staff indicated that the water in the school swimming pools was generally being maintained in accordance with the recommended standards.

General Nuisances

Complaints of public health nuisances showed a 30 per cent increase this year over the 1967 figure. A total of 872 complaints were received, involving the Public Health Inspectors in 4,638 visits during the course of their investigations.

The growth of gypsy encampments and their proximity to residential areas is a matter of national concern and locally is one in which the Department is frequently involved following complaints from residents. At the beginning of the year 38 gypsy caravans were recorded within the New Town area on 11 sites compared with 25 caravans on 10 sites in the previous year.

Whilst the Minister's request to local authorities in circular 60/67 not to move gypsy families needlessly has been adopted as Council policy,

certain unauthorised camps about which complaints were received and those where public health nuisances were established, were subject to enforcement action. Early in the year the Council implemented a new procedure for dealing with gypsy encampments under which reports from the Engineer and Surveyor and myself are submitted to the leader of the Council for executive decision. By the end of the year preliminary discussions were taking place with the Development Corporation for the establishment of a permanent site within the Urban District.

Two hundred and eleven complaints about insect infestation were dealt with during the year involving 466 visits to properties to identify specimens and give advice on methods of treatment. The Department is now fortunate to have acquired a 35× binocular spectroscope which has been found of great value in identification. It is hoped eventually to build up a small entomological collection within the Department.

The chokage of private sewers on certain private estates has presented some difficulties. Since the war, small private estates have been built with small diameter private sewer systems which may have been extended subsequently with the result that the foul drainage layout is frequently difficult to locate and follows a devious route. In some cases as many as 60 dwellings may be served by the private sewer and an obstruction can present a serious inconvenience for the unfortunate owner whose property is near the outfall to the public sewer. A difficulty in these cases is that the legal responsibility for clearing the obstruction rests equally amongst the 60 owners of the properties involved. The remedy prescribed by the Public Health Act 1961 is for the Council to serve notices upon every owner whose property is served by the private sewer and to carry out the work after 48 hours if the owners have failed to do so, which is not infrequently the case. The consequences of observing the law literally in the circumstances outlined may be imagined.

Essex County Council (Canvey Island Approaches, etc.) Act 1967— Section 46

This legislation now replaces the Essex County Council Act 1933 to control conditions of refuse disposal and prevention of nuisance at privately owned refuse tips. The tip operated on Pitsea Marshes by the Land Reclamation Company is therefore now subject to consent under this Act.

Under the Act a person wishing to operate a private tip will require the formal consent of the Essex County Council and also of the Council in whose area the tip is situated. It has been agreed that the County Council will receive all applications for consent in the first instance and forward a copy to the District Council. Standard conditions of consent, suitable for use in ordinary cases have been drawn up and special cases will be subject to discussion between the officers of both Authorities.

Early in the year preliminary discussions were held with the County Health Inspector and representatives of the Land Reclamation Company in respect of a forthcoming application.

Noise Control

Over the last four years the number of noise complaints received in the Department has risen from 11 in 1965 to a total of 48 complaints in 1968. Perhaps part of this increase may be attributed to a greater awareness by the general public of the advice and enforcement action that is available to

them through the Department. For the most part however the steady rise over the four years can no doubt be taken as indicative of the trend for modern society to inflict greater clamour upon itself year by year.

Complaints have featured noise from motor cycle scrambling; building operations; power driven machinery; barking dogs; road drills; fairgrounds; a noisy water pump during the night; ice cream chimes and loudspeakers in an adjoining factory. A resident in a block of flats complained of continued disturbance at night by the hum of a generator. Many visits were made, several at a late hour, in an attempt to establish positively the cause of this noise which was intermittent and of such a nature as to be submerged by normal daytime background sound levels. The noise was eventually isolated to the heating and ventilation system in a nearby showroom and certain sound insulation measures recommended by my Inspector were adopted by the firm. Unfortunately, as quite often occurs, this reduction in the general noise level enabled a second noise, previously unnoticed, to become intrusive. This was subsequently traced to refrigeration machinery in an adjoining shop.

Shopfitters are frequently called upon to work at night and at weekends during hours of shop closure while refitting existing premises or in the case of new development they may be required to work late to meet the opening date deadline. In these cases economic and commercial interests may override any respect for the feelings and comfort of nearby residents. One such complaint received this year concerned the refitting of a betting shop situated beneath some occupied flats. Here the contractors worked, hammering and drilling, throughout Saturday evening and Sunday until 10 o'clock Sunday night, to the considerable distress of the family above. Another complaint involved alterations to a cafe where workmen were busy until 2 a.m. using electric drills and sanding equipment causing disturbance to the occupant of an adjoining property. The complainants in both cases expressed their appreciation for the help and sympathy offered by the Department and in the latter case an informal arrangement with the contractor produced an undertaking that no further work would be carried out after 9 p.m. but the present law is inadequate to deal with the short term noise nuisance as outlined.

What is required is legislation which declares any unnecessary noise to be an offence so that if a Court is satisfied, even after cessation of the noise, that the offence had been committed a fine would be imposed. It is felt that providing the prescribed fine were substantial this would prove to be a deterrent whereas the present nuisance procedure is cumbersome and ineffective. It is also felt that statutory undertakers should not be excluded from the penalties of the Noise Abatement Act.

In accordance with the recommendations of Ministry of Housing and Local Government circular no. 22/67, two Public Health Inspectors attended a special course in London on noise measurement and control and it is intended that others shall follow.

Flooding of parts of the Urban District—14th/15th September, 1968

The Department was heavily committed over the weekend of the floods and for the following fortnight. A total of 41 complaints as a result of flooding were received and 715 visits were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors on flood relief work. One hundred and nineteen rugs and carpets were collected and dried at Barleylands Depot. For three weeks

after the initial emergency, assistance was given to occupiers in the drying out of their homes by providing high output calor gas heaters on loan. These heaters, which were serviced and maintained by the Department, proved to be extremely effective and were very much appreciated by the householders. Naturally the routine work of the Department suffered a set-back over this period and Inspectors were faced with a considerable backlog of work once they were able to be released to return to normal duties. I would like to record my appreciation for the way in which my Inspectors always produce that extra effort without regard for personal commitments during such emergencies.

FACTORIES

Almost every registered factory within the District received an inspection during 1967. Pressure of other work on the commercial section during 1968 prevented a repeat of this performance but inspections of 178 of the 290 registered factories is considered reasonably satisfactory.

The construction of one new factory on the No. 2 Industrial Estate at Basildon was completed and occupied by a firm producing synthetic industrial adhesives, and extensions to five other existing factories were finished during the same period.

PREScribed PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupier Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	276	169	8	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	10	7	2	—
Total ..	290	178	10	—

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:—

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of cleanliness	6	6	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Inadequate lighting	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1	—	—	—
(c) Ventilation	1	—	1	—	—
(d) Redecorate	5	2	—	—	—
(e) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
Total:	19	13	1	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT — OUTWORK

Nature of Work	SECTION 133			SECTION 134		
	No. of outworkers notified as required by Section (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making	240	10	—	—	—	—
Plastic moulding and tool making	21	4	—	—	—	—
Hardware and wire articles	15	2	—	—	—	—
Soldering and assembling	12	2	—	—	—	—
Basket making	3	2	—	—	—	—
Total	291	20	—	—	—	—

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

Rodent Control

Four hundred and ninety six reports of infestation by rodents were received and dealt with by the Department. The free service for householders was continued and treatment to 80 trade premises was carried out on a rechargeable basis. Twenty seven annual contracts for rodent control at farms, factories and other commercial premises were undertaken and, in all, the three Rodent Operatives made 4,924 visits in connection with rodent control.

Routine Spring and Autumn treatments of sewers in the designated New Town area were carried out under contract for the Basildon Development Corporation and out of a total of 584 manholes tested on the foul and surface water systems, 15 were found to be infested. Other demands on manual staff time unfortunately prevented full scale survey of the Council's sewerage system and it was possible to deal only with isolated infestations.

Although every care is taken to ensure that Warfarin bait laid during treatment is reasonably inaccessible to dogs, cats and children, and the location of baiting points usually drawn to the occupiers' attention, the occasional complaint that their pets have been "poisoned" or their children's health endangered remains an occupational hazard to local authorities undertaking rodent control on private property. Such fears are invariably quite unfounded. The ingestion of Warfarin by animals in small quantities is likely to result only in vomiting and the relatively small quantities used in the treatment of domestic properties quite unlikely to produce any harmful effect upon the inquisitive child. One of the advantages of Warfarin over the old acute poisons is its relative safety and when baits of only 2-4 ozs. are laid by trained and experienced operators any risk to a domestic pet may be regarded as minimal.

The Senior Rodent Operative attended a Ministry refresher course on rodent and insect control at Witham in July.

Disinfestation

Widespread infestation of roof spaces by Australian Spider Beetle was discovered in two groups of terraced properties in Basildon. These small insects which normally infest cereal and grain, are quite harmless but can be unpleasant in large numbers. A factor which rendered disinfestation difficult was the presence of an insulation blanket on the ceiling joists in these properties and it was found that the insects had worked their way into the interstices of this material and thus received some degree of protection from the insecticide. Rodent control treatment had previously been carried out in one of the properties affected and the possibility of an infested cereal having been used in the bait base could not be discounted. Intensive treatment of the roofs continued and in one case the entire insulation was replaced. A total of 146 roof spaces where bait had been laid in recent months were therefore checked but no further spider beetle infestations were found and as a result the bait base could be cleared of suspicion. The infestation was ultimately cleared.

The service for the destruction and removal of wasps' nests free of charge was maintained and a total of 89 nests was dealt with during the season. Complaints of bugs and fleas totalled 52.

Visits carried out by Rodent Operatives/General Assistants:—

Rodent Control—Contracts	242
Rodent Control—Domestic dwellings and general survey ..	2,973
Rodent Control—Trade premises	292
Rodent Control—Agriculture	58
Rodent Control—Council premises	148
Rodent Control—Sewer test baiting	1,211
Welfare—sick room equipment, clinics, etc.	2,362
Vermin	104
Removal of condemned foods	152
Disposal of dead animals	181
Drain investigations	108
Disinfecting after infectious disease	6
Destruction of wasps' nests	89
Incontinent laundry service	3,630
Post—inter departmental deliveries	581
Disposal of night soil	173
Miscellaneous flood duties	682
Miscellaneous	267
	13,259

MISCELLANEOUS**Laundry Service for Incontinent Persons**

Fifty seven new cases were accepted on the service during the year and the maximum number of patients receiving collection and delivery at any one time rose to 46. As the maximum number of patients which could reasonably be dealt with by one driver and van is in the region of 35, it was necessary to employ a second vehicle and driver on this service for part of the time and it was arranged for him to off-load laundry deliveries in the Billericay area from the regular driver. The total number of articles laundered at Runwell Hospital during the year was 15,983, an increase of over 3,500 on the previous year's figure.

National Assistance Act 1948—Section 50

During the year two funerals were undertaken by the Council's funeral contractor. In carrying out the duty placed on them under this Section, the Council's policy is for cremation, except in cases where there is reason to believe that this might be contrary to the wishes of the deceased or any known relative.

District Welfare Minibus

This vehicle has now covered 70,000 miles in the course of conveying the aged, infirm and handicapped to their local meetings or on summer outings and holidays. The year has not been without its problems. The driver of the minibus was on sick leave the whole of October, and due to the age of the vehicle, the need for repairs became more frequent. This latter difficulty will be overcome next year when I anticipate replacing the existing minibus with a new 15 seat model. Nine thousand, one hundred and five "pick-ups" were undertaken and the success and popularity of the

venture is such that, unfortunately, several applications for bookings could not be accepted. It is hoped that the new vehicle provided for the George Hurd Centre will be able on occasions to assist and augment the existing service.

The Department continued to accept bookings for the three ambulances on behalf of the Basildon Physically Handicapped Club.

Consumer Protection

Nightdresses

Seven samples were purchased and forwarded to an approved laboratory for testing in accordance with the Nightdresses (Safety) Regulations 1967.

One nightdress sample failed to satisfy the requirements of the Regulations in that the lining was found to be highly flammable and the garment did not bear a sewn-in warning label of the fire risk. Legal proceedings were taken against the retailer resulting in a fine of £20 with £2 costs.

Toys

Five samples of children's toys were purchased for testing under the Toys (Safety) Regulations 1967.

An imported teddy-bear was found to be stuffed with material which indicated a contravention of the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations 1961. The amount of material in one bear was found to be insufficient to carry out a proper test to support legal proceedings and further teddy-bears of this manufacture were not obtainable. The matter was taken up with the Company who imported the bears from Japan and it is understood that this particular toy is now no longer marketed in this Country.

A complaint was received from a lady who was in the habit of purchasing hydrogen peroxide from the chemist for bleaching her hair. The most recent application of hydrogen peroxide had not only bleached her hair but it was alleged, also burned her scalp and the remains of the hydrogen peroxide which she had used was sent to the Public Analyst. His analysis showed that it was of a strength of 100 volumes whereas the label indicated 30 volumes. A further unopened bottle bearing the same details was purchased by my Inspector at the same shop and analysed. This was found to be 10 volumes only whereas the label indicated 30 volumes. The analysis clearly indicated that the solution in the bottle which was alleged to have caused the damage was far too strong and was undoubtedly the cause of the scalp damage. Enquiries were made through the trade but the manufacturing firm was found to have gone into liquidation and in the hands of the official receiver.

Other matters dealt with included a complaint regarding the condition of a child's anorak, a woman's defective coat and two complaints regarding unsatisfactory pet foods.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

There are eleven premises licensed under this Act in the Urban District for the boarding of cats and dogs. Each establishment received bi-annual visits by the Council's Veterinary Adviser and a member of my staff, and additional check visits were made during the peak boarding season.

Riding Establishments Act 1964

The Miscellaneous Fees (Variation) Order 1968 which increased fees for certificates or licences issued under various enactments, singled out horse riding establishments for a resounding increase in licence fee from 10/- to £10 per annum. Despite this, two establishments were licensed for the year.

Many people, particularly those living in semi-rural areas, now own ponies and for those without space for stabling, a different type of establishment is increasing in popularity—the livery stable. The boarding of other people's horses is not covered by the Animal Boarding Establishments Act and, since the horses are not let for hire, the premises are not subject to licensing or inspection.

Planning Applications

Three hundred and sixteen plans were examined in the Department during the year and observations on public health aspects made to the Engineer and Surveyor or direct to the developer.

Health Education

In addition to talks to local women's groups on the work of the Department, a course of lectures on specialist aspects of public health was given to school children of Barstable School as part of the syllabus for G.C.E. and C.S.E. examinations in biology.

Two talks were also given to children at Craylands School as part of a study in local government.

Once again the Department's 35 mm. slide projector and collection of colour slides on the Council's Environmental Health Services proved extremely popular and certain of the lectures to school children were augmented by the use of a flannelgraph.

Use is made of the Council's quarterly newspaper "Link" to keep the public informed and articles on new food hygiene techniques, Smoke Control Order No. 8, and advice on making a food complaint appeared during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for information regarding these services.

Sewerage

Although at first refused, Ministry approval has now been given to the scheme for sewerage the western end of London Road, Billericay.

The scheme for Ramsden Bellhouse and parts of Crays Hill and London Road, Wickford has received Ministry approval but the Council were concerned that the Ministry did not approve the commencement of the work until the Shotgate Sewage Treatment Works enlargement and modernisation scheme and also the Wickford Relief Sewer Scheme were nearing completion. This would have meant the continuation of the unsatisfactory drainage conditions in the areas concerned for at least 18 months longer than was anticipated. The Ministry have however, since agreed a commencement in accordance with the Council's wishes.

The Council were also disappointed that surface water sewerage schemes for the Shotgate area and London Road area, both in Wickford, have not received Ministry approval.

The rapid development of the district which has taken place in post-war years, is resulting in overloaded foul water sewers in a number of areas and the Council has authorised engineering investigations into this problem.

Sewage Disposal

Due to circumstances beyond the Council's control, the start of the scheme for the enlargement and modernisation of the grossly overloaded Shotgate Sewage Treatment Works will be later than envisaged, but a tender has now been accepted subject to Ministry approval.

The scheme for the Central Sludge Treatment Plant has also had a delayed start but work has now commenced.

HOUSING

Rehousing

Seven hundred and eight applications were received in the Housing Department during the year and the total number of applicants on the list at the 31st December was 778 of which 118 were aged persons.

One thousand, three hundred and thirty-eight families were accommodated by the Basildon Development Corporation and 501 applicants were rehoused in Council dwellings. The total number of Council dwellings is now 3,838; the Basildon Development Corporation own 15,913 properties.

Close liaison was maintained with the Housing Manager in all cases where the conditions of the applicant's dwelling may have some bearing on his case. One hundred and twenty-six visits were made by members of my staff in connection with overcrowding and rehousing enquiries.

It is interesting to look back to the Annual Report on public health conditions in this district in the year 1910, when the Medical Officer of Health commented on the inadequacy of housing accommodation. He reported "so many of the present cottages are falling into decay and becoming unsafe and unfit for habitation that if the Public Health Acts were fully carried out there would be a large number of cottages closed in each parish, but it is more humane to allow the poorer families in the district to dwell even in these insanitary, unsafe cottages, than to turn them out on to the street with no roof to their heads. What is wanted are good cottages with three or four bedrooms, a living room, a scullery or pantry, a good water supply, good drainage and a garden let at a rental of 3-4s. per week, and I am of the opinion that houses fulfilling all these conditions could be built in blocks of six or more and made to pay."

Unfit Houses

The No. 2 Slum Clearance Programme having been completed, individual unfit properties are now dealt with as they arise either through a rehousing enquiry or following a complaint to the Department regarding the structural condition. Eleven Demolition Orders were made during the year and eight properties were demolished as a result of formal or informal action under the Housing Act 1957. One Closing Order became operative.

Improvement Grants

Fifty-eight applications were dealt with during the year, each property being subjected to joint inspection by one of my Inspectors and a member of the Engineer and Surveyor's staff. My Department is concerned with the fitness of the dwelling for human habitation and where the premises are found to fall short of the Housing Act standard, a specification of the work required to be carried out is passed to the Engineer and Surveyor before approval of the grant application.

One unusual case concerned a small one-roomed dwelling which, whilst offering inadequate accommodation for the family of three, could not be declared structurally unfit. The application by the owner/occupier for a Standard Improvement Grant involved the construction of a bathroom extension and it was pointed out at this time that the dwelling was in fact overcrowded and would continue to be so even if the proposed improvement works were carried out. The owner was prepared to construct a bedroom, thus providing a more satisfactory unit of accommodation, but was unable to obtain planning consent for this extension. Thus, although the property was considered to present unsatisfactory accommodation, approval for an Improvement Grant could not be withheld, since the property was capable of being placed in reasonable state of repair and had a life of more than 15 years. Whilst no doubt a one-roomed property with a bathroom is an improvement over a one-roomed property without, it is felt that the case may point to a need for some revision of the grounds for refusal of standard grants.

Housing Defects

One hundred and thirty-five complaints of housing defects were received during the year and all of these were dealt with under the Public Health Act. Over 50 per cent of the complaints concerned dampness to properties, often attributable to condensation. Statutory Notices were served in six cases and one of these reached the Magistrates Court where a Nuisance Order was granted in respect of a bedroom ceiling which was damp, discoloured and sagging badly due to cracked and broken roof tiles. The repairs were satisfactorily completed within the 28 days allowed by the Court.

Rent Act 1957—Certificates of Disrepair

No applications were received in the year under review and only 30 have been dealt with since the coming into operation of the Act.

Land Charges Act 1925

Two thousand, one hundred and eleven searches in respect of properties were dealt with by the Department during the year.

CLEAN AIR

Domestic Smoke Control Programme

The Basildon No. 7 Smoke Control Order, the first to be made by the Council outside the designated New Town area, became operative on 1st December. Containing over 1,000 privately owned dwellings and nearly 600 Council houses where tenants were given the opportunity to convert their fireplaces if they wished, the No. 7 Order placed a heavier burden on the Department than previous areas.

The Order also produced the first formal objection to smoke control from a householder in the area who wished to continue his practice of burning logs in a large dog-grate set in an inglenook fireplace. He wished his case to be considered by the Minister since he believed that the antiquity of his property placed it in a special category. After careful consideration, the Minister refused to grant any exemption and the objection was not upheld.

In November, the Public Health Committee resolved to make the No. 8 Smoke Control Order (Billericay East), which formed a natural extension of the No. 7 Order which covers the South Green district. The No. 8 Order covers 504 acres and comprises approximately 1,700 private dwellings. Although there are only two Council dwellings in the area, it contains two housing estates, one of 446 properties owned by the London Borough of Waltham Forest, and the Chantry Estate comprising a total of 105 properties owned by the London Co-operative Society. The Order will become operative on 1st November, 1969.

Progress in smoke control in the Urban District to date is as follows:—

Orders already operative

<i>Smoke Control Area No.</i>	<i>Operative Date</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total No. of Dwelling Houses</i>
1	1.9.59	260	2,200
2	1.10.64	890	4,400
3	1.9.65	1,162	6,450
4	1.10.66	439	1,658
5	1.10.67	283	646
6	1.10.67	120	457
7	1.12.68	470	1,691
<i>Total:</i>		3,624	17,502

Orders Submitted for Confirmation by the Minister of Housing and Local Government

<i>Smoke Control Area No.</i>	<i>Operative Date</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total No. of Dwelling Houses</i>
8	1.11.69	504	1,705

Once the No. 8 Order becomes operative a minimum of 19,207 dwelling houses will be subject to smoke control, approximately 52 per cent of the total inhabited dwellings in the Urban District.

Notifications of New Furnaces and Control of Chimney Heights

Of the 14 notifications of proposed new boiler installations in the district, five were outside the scope of Section 10 of the Clean Air Act in respect of chimney height control. Four school projects were involved and the improved co-operation received from the County Architect during the year in achieving a reasonable chimney height in relation to the adjacent buildings and the surrounding land, has been welcomed. The change in the law due to take effect in April 1969 affecting buildings previously outside the scope of Section 10, may well have contributed towards this improved situation.

Measurement of Air Pollution

The two instruments capable of detecting the daily concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air are now installed and fully operational. As the Council's domestic smoke control programme is now well established, the timing of the installation of these instruments is considered opportune, one within the area affected by smoke control and the other in a part of the district yet to be included. With this in mind, the sites chosen were Bader House, Witchards, Basildon and Wickford Police Station.

The instruments are of the 8-port variety which automatically collect and retain a daily sample at each site for weekly collection by a member of my staff. A small electric pump draws a constant flow of air through the instrument from an external probe and this is metered, filtered and passed through a dilute solution of hydrogen peroxide to convert the sulphur dioxide in the air to sulphuric acid. When the samples are returned to the Department's laboratory, a calibrated reflectometer is used to measure the degree of smoke pollution retained in the filter. In addition, the strength of acid in the solution is determined by titration against a standard alkali. These readings are translated into comparable results by Warren Spring Laboratory for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, where calculations are carried out by computer and national comparison of results made.

Monthly averages of the daily computer readings over the period that the stations have been in operation are appended below. The smoke and SO₂ readings are in micrograms per cubic metre and it will be noted that the ratio of smoke to sulphur dioxide in Basildon is fairly consistently lower than at Wickford and significantly so in the winter months.

Basildon No. 1, Bader House, Witchards, Basildon

				<i>Smoke</i>	<i>SO₂</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
May..	..	..	..	15	61	0.25
June..	..	..	..	8	47	0.17
July..	..	..	..	10	29	0.34
August	..	..	..	9	41	0.22
September	..	..	..	16	54	0.30
October	..	..	..	26	106	0.25
November	..	..	..	36	94	0.38
December	..	..	..	47	122	0.39

Wickford No. 1, Wickford Police Station

				<i>Smoke</i>	<i>SO₂</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
May..	..	..	..	16	62	0.26
June..	..	..	..	9	43	0.21
July..	..	..	..	10	30	0.33
August	..	..	..	9	34	0.26
September	..	..	..	15	49	0.31
October	..	..	..	29	81	0.36
November	..	..	..	43	79	0.54
December	..	..	..	58	97	0.60

Industrial Smoke Offences

Two contraventions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations 1958 were observed and informal action in the form of written warnings was a sufficient remedy in each case.

The recurrent nuisance referred to in my Report last year regarding smoke nuisance from the oil-fired heater units at a large garage recurred during the year but the problem appears to have been resolved following service of the oil tanks which revealed a high sludge content. Once this was removed the complaints of smoke nuisance from the adjoining householders ceased.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Registrations and Inspections

Eight hundred and twenty-two premises are registered at the present time and over 8,500 employees are covered by the provisions of the Act. The total number of premises registered by the Department at the end of the year showed an overall increase of about 5 per cent, but it is significant that most of the 80 new registrations were brought about as the result of visits by my staff and it seems clear that many occupiers, small shopkeepers and multiple firms alike, do not appreciate their obligation to register under the Act. Almost 60 per cent of all registered premises received a general inspection during the year and the number of supplementary visits also increased to result in a combined total which exceeds by 300 the highest number of visits previously recorded.

Attitude of Employers and Employees

There has been a noted improvement in the attitude of employers as the Act has become an established and, in the main, acceptable piece of legislation. One exception, however, is the attitude towards the question of providing a drinking water supply elsewhere than in a W.C. cubicle. Although in many cases these cubicles may be of a minimum functional size where the risk of contamination of the drinking water source could not be discounted, there has been a reluctance by some employers to incur what they consider unnecessary expenditure in providing a separate wholesome drinking water supply elsewhere, preferably away from the general sanitary arrangements.

There has been a dearth of complaints from employees during the year under review and it is hoped that this reflects the attention being given to this legislation whereby employees are finding little grounds for complaint about matters within the purview of the Act.

Enforcement

As this legislation has been operative for over five years now and the majority of the registered premises have been subject to these provisions for that time, it is to be expected that some premises receiving subsequent general inspections will be found to be satisfactory. Hence a lower proportion of premises inspected during the year required the service of formal notices of infringement. A contributory factor in this trend is the opportunity to comment on proposed development at the stage when plans are first submitted for planning approval thus allowing the developer to be fully advised at the outset. In this respect close co-operation between the Departments of the Engineer and Surveyor and of the Chief Public Health Inspector is essential and in this Authority is achieved.

In order to meet the temperature requirements of the Act, portable oil heaters are used in some shop premises, which, having regard to the real possibility of their being knocked over by an assistant or customer, were regarded as a hazard. This problem has been overcome either by changing to another form of heating, or by screwing the portable heaters to the floor. Improvement in lighting standards have been achieved in several cases. Employers are encouraged to take specialist advice on this subject. One case is recalled where after carrying out work to improve lighting standards for his employees, an employer was approached by them with complaints that they now experienced distress due to reflected glare.

Progress is being made in the use of approved guards to slicing machines in food shops but it is one thing to get the employer to provide the necessary guard and an entirely different proposition to convince employees who have used machines of this type for some years without a guard, that this equipment does not unduly interfere with the use of the machine itself.

Notification of Accidents

Of the 27 accidents notified, none proved fatal and only one resulted in a broken limb.

Contraventions

The undermentioned contraventions were reported by my staff:—

					<i>Shops</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Temperature	..	..	..	13	1	14
2.	Washing facilities	..	..	..	2	1	3
3.	Drinking water	..	..	..	11	2	13
4.	Ventilation	..	..	..	21	3	24
5.	Redecoration and repairs	..	..	..	22	3	25
6.	Provision/repair of floor covering	..	..	..	23	4	27
7.	Provision of thermometers	..	..	..	30	5	35
8.	Provision of clothing accommodation and drying facilities for same	..	..	..	9	2	11
9.	Provision of first aid kits	..	..	..	40	3	43
10.	General cleanliness	..	..	..	11	3	14
11.	Stairs, passages, etc. to be free from obstruction	..	..	..	5	—	5
12.	Overcrowding	..	..	..	1	1	2
13.	Insufficient lighting	..	..	..	11	3	14
14.	Provision of W.C.'s	..	..	..	1	—	1
15.	Provision of hot water to existing wash hand basins	..	..	..	15	7	22
16.	Provision of seats and tables	..	..	..	3	—	3
17.	Marking of doors of W.C.'s indicating sexes	..	..	..	5	4	9
18.	Door closers to W.C. compartment doors	..	..	..	4	1	5
19.	Provision of handrails to staircases	..	..	..	4	1	5
20.	Provision of intervening ventilated space	..	..	..	11	3	14
21.	Abstract of the Act	..	..	..	27	5	32
22.	Inadequate guards to machinery	..	..	..	13	—	13
23.	Dangerous gully surround	..	..	..	1	—	1
24.	Refuse accumulations	..	..	..	1	—	1
25.	Dangerous positioning of oil heaters	..	..	..	2	—	2

FOOD

Food Hygiene

General inspections are made on a strictly programmed basis with additional visits as judged necessary in individual cases. During the year efforts have been made by internal reorganisation to focus more consistent attention on our food hygiene work, probably the most vital of all the Health Inspectors' duties, and to ensure as far as possible, uniform standards of inspection throughout this large Urban District.

These efforts have not gone unrewarded and a total of 2,440 food premises were visited and over 500 contraventions found, an increase of over 25 per cent in each case over the previous year.

Inspection standards at Basildon are high, but while food premises in this District do not suffer by comparison generally with those elsewhere, there is still, in some establishments, room for improvement. Much is being and will continue to be achieved by education of food handlers by my staff. But for those whose co-operation is less readily obtained; those who ask an Inspector to divide his suggestions into two categories, recommendations and legal requirements, for these the present law sometimes seems inadequate. The public will obtain the standards of food hygiene which they themselves demand and it is for them to consider seriously what premium should be placed on food hygiene in the retail food establishments in this Country. The housewife may well ask herself as she places perishable foods in her refrigerator why the law exempts the retailer from keeping such foods under refrigeration while on display for sale. She may ponder whether, in a community which will not permit boarding establishments for dogs to operate unless annually licensed, catering establishments could not benefit from similar licensing control. Given this start would she have the temerity to wonder why Crown premises and hospital kitchens should be exempted from the Food Hygiene Regulations?

Last year I mentioned the value of notices and pamphlets written in Chinese characters for distribution to employees in our Chinese restaurants. This service has been taken a stage further. The Hong Kong Government recently organised a survey to ascertain the number of their people employed in these restaurants and as a gesture of appreciation in return for this information supplied copies of the complete translation of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 to assist local authorities ensure that the personnel in these establishments understood the full import of the legislation.

The increase in popularity of the self-service food shop raises some problems which did not arise when foodstuffs were sold across the counter, one of which is the display for sale of unwrapped bread which is open to handling by a number of shoppers before purchase. It is quite common practice for customers to squeeze a number of loaves on display, searching for the crispiest or freshest. Complaints had been received from members of the public and, whilst accepting that the risk of bacterial growth on this type of product was minimal, it was decided to approach the main multiple firms handling unwrapped bread in Basildon New Town to obtain their reactions to wrapping all bread intended for self-service. The response from the companies truly interested in the advancement of food hygiene was most encouraging and this campaign is now being

extended throughout the Urban District. The type of wrapper being used by the bakeries producing this bread is one which allows the customer to see clearly the product on display but being perforated, is claimed not to soften the crust.

Markets

The number of food stalls operating in the three Markets in the Urban District at the end of 1968 was as follows:—

Basildon	16
Pitsea	16
Wickford	12

Basildon Market, which operates three days each week, has maintained a reasonable standard throughout the year. Good standards are not achieved solely by sending each stallholder a copy of the appropriate legislation but rather by arranging regular visits at different times of the day on the majority of Market days. In this way the stallholders become aware of the need to maintain a uniform standard at all times. The fact that the Basildon Market is Council controlled is a factor which is influential in attaining a satisfactory standard.

The new Pitsea Market site controlled by the Basildon Development Corporation, is housed in four plastic domes, opening early in 1969. An interesting point on the construction of the new Market is that this is the first permanent application in Britain of the Danish designed Abstracta building system. The tubular framework domes, each 80 feet in diameter and 30 feet high, are covered with a nylon-P.V.C. skin. The main food dome, accommodating six food shops and a snack bar, is totally enclosed whilst the remainder are open-sided to a height of approximately 10 feet. Close liaison has been maintained with officers of the Basildon Development Corporation to ensure that the Market offers all facilities required by the Regulations.

Wickford Market continues to present problems and it was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against three stallholders during the year. The surface of the main Market area is far from satisfactory but the possibility of future redevelopment for the area has precluded any requirements of the owner which would involve substantial expenditure.

Prosecution of Offences

In the majority of cases informal notification of items requiring attention was sufficient to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation and this is the Department's broad policy. However, in the small number of cases where a satisfactory degree of co-operation by traders is not forthcoming, legal proceedings are instituted and during the year the following cases were taken at Billericay Magistrates' Court:—

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

A local publican was prosecuted on four counts and fined a total of £150 with five guineas costs.

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966

1. A Wickford Market stallholder fined £12 and two guineas costs.
2. A Wickford Market stallholder fined £10 and two guineas costs.
3. A Wickford Market stallholder fined £20 and five guineas costs.
4. Operator of an ice cream vehicle prosecuted on two occasions during the year for offences under these Regulations and was fined a total of £7.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

The same ice cream vehicle operator as mentioned above was prosecuted on two occasions under this legislation and fined a total of £15.

Registration of Premises under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955

Ten new applications for the manufacture or storage of ice cream intended for sale were received during the year under review, bringing the total number of registered premises to 182. Eleven new applications for the preparation or manufacture of sausages and preserved foods were also received.

Essex County Council Act 1952—Section 103

Forty-one applications were approved from persons wishing to register as hawkers of foodstuffs and the total number on the register at the end of the year was 45. These figures are indicative of the high turnover of personnel in this type of food trade and in an effort to maintain an up-to-date register of food hawkers the Manager of the main ice cream depot within this District submits a monthly list of his current personnel and arrangements are made for prospective food hawkers to be interviewed and their vehicles inspected before trading.

Ice Cream Production and Sampling

The programme of bacteriological sampling from all known outlets, i.e. depots, vans, cafes and shops was continued throughout the year. The results show a higher proportion of unsatisfactory samples than in previous years. This was mainly due to the fact that during the months of May and June batches of mix from the production factory situated outside this district were found on sampling to be unsatisfactory on arrival at the local depot. It was only after close co-operation between the Company's Bacteriologist and my Inspectors by duplicate sampling at all stages of storage and handling that this problem was eventually overcome.

The consistently high turnover of vehicle operators in this type of business is another difficulty insomuch that it is the exception rather than the rule for personnel attracted to this trade to have had previous experience in a food business, and the question of their education in food hygiene is an ever present problem.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of Premises</i>	<i>Number fitted to comply Reg. 16</i>	<i>Number to which Reg. 19 applies</i>	<i>Number which comply Reg. 19</i>
Bakers	19	19	19	19
Butchers	43	43	43	43
Cafes	50	49	50	50
Confectioners	69	69	—	—
School Canteens	58	58	58	58
Factory and Stores Canteens	67	66	67	67
Other Canteens	20	20	20	20
Wet and Fried Fishmongers	8	8	8	8
Grocers	89	89	89	88
Greengrocers	33	33	26	26
Supermarkets	30	30	30	30
Licensed Premises	47	47	47	47
Off Licences	18	17	—	11
Manufacturing Premises	11	11	11	11

Contraventions

The summary of contraventions found under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 is as follows:—

Accumulations of refuse—removal of	..	..	..	4
Artificial lighting—provision of	..	..	..	4
Channels—cleanse or repair	..	..	..	3
Cleansing—general	..	..	..	26
Cleansing—walls, floors, ceilings, doors	..	..	..	46
Extraneous matter—remove	..	..	..	6
First aid kits—provide	..	..	..	18
Fittings and fixtures—cleanse	..	..	..	7
Flies and birds—precautions and screens	..	..	..	3
Floors and floor coverings—defective	..	..	..	36
Food exposed to contamination	..	..	..	19
Glazing—renew	..	..	..	4
Hot water—provide	..	..	..	29
Lockers for clothing—provide	..	..	..	11
Personal hygiene—contravention	..	..	..	1
Redecoration	..	..	..	74
Refrigerator—cleanse	..	..	..	10
—repair	..	..	..	5
Repairs—general	..	..	..	12
Repairs—walls, doors and pipes	..	..	..	8
Shelves—cleanse or resurface	..	..	..	10
Sinks—renew or provide	..	..	..	17
Soap, towel, nailbrush—provide	..	..	..	42
Staircase—defective treads	..	..	..	2
Storage in room containing W.C.	..	..	..	2
Storage—unsatisfactory	..	..	..	3
Tiles—renew	..	..	..	15
Unhygienic equipment	..	..	..	9
Ventilated lobby—provide	..	..	..	5
Ventilation—provide adequate	..	..	..	7
Walls and ceilings—provide washable surface	..	..	..	2
Washable bins for refuse—provide	..	..	..	9
Wash hands notice—provide	..	..	..	9
Water supply—reinstate	..	..	..	2
W.C.—cleanse or repair	..	..	..	19
Worktops—cover with washable surface	..	..	..	26
Yard—cleanse or repair	..	..	..	4
Total:				509

Bacteriological Sampling of Cooked Meats, etc.

A total of 143 samples of all types were taken during the year the results of which were as follows:—

<i>Food Sampled</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. of Outlets</i>	<i>No. considered Unsatisfactory</i>
Cooked Meats	66	31	19
Creams	77	14	36

Fifteen per cent more samples were taken this year but from fewer premises thus allowing more repeat samples from the same retail outlet.

Whilst familiar problems such as the presence of *E. coli* and high plate counts were encountered, these were generally overcome ultimately as a result of discussions with the management and advice from my staff.

The results thus show a decrease by 30 per cent in the number of samples considered unsatisfactory although it will be noted that nearly half the cream samples received adverse comment by the bacteriologist.

It is felt that the progress achieved to date is sufficiently encouraging to warrant continued effort in the year ahead.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

Twenty dealers' licences for the sale of pre-packed milk under special designation were issued during the year.

Control of Milk Supplies

The processing dairy on the No. 1 Industrial Estate at Basildon maintained a throughput of approximately 110,000 gallons of milk per week throughout the year. No difficulties were experienced here and all grades of milk were sampled regularly for the statutory methylene blue and phosphatase tests with no failures.

Details of samples taken for bacteriological examination from this dairy and other retailing sources throughout the district are as follows:—

	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised	135	133	2
Pasteurised (Homogenised)	69	64	5
Channel Island (Pasteurised)	38	38	—
Sterilised	19	19	—
Ultra Heat Treated ..	9	9	—
	270	263	7

Bacteriological sampling of milk supplied to school children was maintained and 22 samples were taken, all of which proved satisfactory.

Of the seven unsatisfactory samples, three came from vending machines and it is probable that the milk had not been stored in a refrigerator before being placed in the machine. Of the other unsatisfactory samples, two occurred due to lack of foresight on the part of the retailer concerned in that the milk was stored in the direct rays of the sun. An alternative position was agreed upon in order to overcome this problem.

Early morning visits to farms at milking time continued in order to check samples for the presence of antibiotics or brucella abortus. Of 28 such samples two were found to contain antibiotics but further formal samples which were taken immediately upon receipt of the laboratory report failed to produce a positive reaction.

Churn and Bottle Rinsings

The efficiency of the churn and bottle washing machines at the dairy was regularly checked by samples of rinsings from both types of containers for bacteriological examination, the results of which are as follows:-

			<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Churns	..	..	137	131	6
Bottles	..	..	131	130	1

Informal Testing of Milk and Milk Products

My Departmental laboratory continued a programme of simple chemical analyses during which 143 samples of milk and milk products were tested.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

In the course of the year 228 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst who commented adversely on nine samples. The following table shows the range of articles sampled:-

Articles Sampled				<i>Samples Analysed</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory</i>
Almond essence	..	..	..	1	—
Almond marzipan	..	..	..	1	—
Almonds, ground	..	..	..	1	—
Angel delight	..	..	..	1	—
Apple green	..	..	..	1	—
Baking powder	..	..	..	1	—
Beefburgers	..	..	..	1	—
Beef curry	..	..	..	1	—
Beef pie	..	..	..	2	—
Beef suet	..	..	..	1	—
Biscuits	..	..	..	2	—
Bolognese sauce	..	..	..	2	—
Boston pickle	..	..	..	1	—
Bronchial mix	..	..	..	1	—
Butter	..	..	..	3	—
Buttered ginger	..	..	..	1	—
Caramel dessert	..	..	..	1	—
Cheese..	..	..	..	7	—
Cheese food	..	..	..	1	—
Cheese sauce	..	..	..	1	—
Cheese, soft	..	..	..	1	—
Cheese spread	..	..	..	2	—
Cheese spread with relish	..	..	..	1	—
Cheez whiz	..	..	..	1	—
Cherries	..	..	..	1	—
Chicken and ham pie	..	..	..	1	—
Chicken and cereal	..	..	..	1	—
Chicken curry with rice	..	..	..	1	—
Chili seasoning	..	..	..	1	—
Chips	..	..	..	1	—
Chocolate flavoured drink	..	..	..	2	—

Articles Sampled	Samples Analysed	Samples Unsatisfactory
Chutney	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Coffee and chicory mix	2	—
Cooking oil	2	—
Cornish pasty	1	—
Cornish pasty filling	1	—
Cough syrup	1	—
Cowslip wine	1	—
Cyclamate and saccharin cubes	1	—
Cream	1	—
Currants	1	—
Curry paste	1	—
Curry powder	2	—
Custard powder	2	—
Dessert	2	—
Farlene	1	—
Fish cakes	1	—
Frankfurters	1	—
Fruit chutney	1	—
Gin	2	1
Glace cherries	1	—
Gravy mix	1	—
Ham spread	1	—
Hazelnut spread	2	—
Herring roes	1	—
Honeycombe mould mix	1	—
Horseradish	1	—
Hot pot	1	—
Iced lemon tea mix	1	—
Jam	1	—
Jelly	1	—
Jelly crystals	1	1
Junior disprin	1	—
Lemonade and lager	1	—
Lemon drink	2	—
Lemon juice	1	—
Lemon squash concentrate	1	—
Liver sausage	1	—
Lolly	1	—
Low calorie drink	2	—
Margarine	4	—
Marzipan	1	—
Meat pie	1	—
Melox super treats	1	—
Milk	2	—
Milk, evaporated	2	—
Milk shake syrup	1	—
Minced beef	1	—
Miracle whip	1	—
Mixed cereal	1	—
Mixed peel	1	—
Mussels	1	—
Olive oil	1	—

Articles Sampled	Samples Analysed	Samples Unsatisfactory
Orange and rosehip syrup	2	—
Outline low fat spread	1	1
Paste	4	—
Peanut butter	1	—
Pears	2	—
Pickles.. .. .	1	—
Porridge	1	—
Pork luncheon meat	2	—
Pork pie	8	—
Potted beef	1	—
Prunes	1	—
Quick trifle	1	—
Raspberries	1	—
Ravioli	1	—
Ready meal	1	—
Rice, ground	1	—
Rosehip syrup	1	—
Rum	1	—
Rumba	1	—
Salt	1	—
Sandwich spread	1	—
Sauce tartare	1	—
Sauerkraut with meat and sausage..	1	—
Sausages, beef	8	1
Sausages, pork	5	—
Sausages, pork chipolata	1	—
Sausage savouries	1	—
Sherry	4	—
Soft drink	15	1
Soup	2	—
Spaghetti bolognese	1	—
Spaghetti sauce	1	—
Sponge mixture	1	—
Sponge pudding mix.. .. .	1	—
Starch reduced rolls	1	—
Steak and kidney pie	4	—
Steak pie	2	—
Strawberries	1	—
Sunny spread yoghurt	1	—
Syrup of figs	1	—
Syrup of glycerine, lemon and ipec	1	—
Sweet corn	1	—
Sweets	2	—
Sweet whip	1	—
Swiss pate with truffle	1	—
Tea	2	—
Thousand island dressing	1	—
Toasty grills	1	—
Tomatoes	3	—
Tomato juice	1	—
Tomato ketchup	3	—
Tomato pickle	1	—
Tomato puree	1	—

Articles Sampled					<i>Samples Analysed</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory</i>
Tomato sauce	..	..	..		1	—
Tomato spaghetti and beef	..		..		1	—
Tripe	..	..	..	..	1	—
Turkey and tongue roll		..	..		1	—
Vinegar	..	..	..	..	1	—
Viota whip	..	..	..	..	1	—
White wine	..	..	..	..	1	—
Yoghurt	..	..	..	..	5	4
					—	—
				Totals:	228	9
					—	—

Non-Genuine Samples

Details concerning non-genuine samples and action taken are set out below:—

Beef Sausages

No declaration of the presence of preservative was given at the time of sale but the sample was found to contain 370 parts per million of sulphur dioxide. Whilst the manufacturing company supply the necessary labels for inclusion with individual purchases in addition to providing a notice for display in the shop, the Branch Manager had failed to comply with his Company's instructions in this respect but this was rectified forthwith.

Table Jelly Crystals

This sample was submitted following a complaint from the supervisor of a school canteen within the district, regarding the presence of some dark specks in the product. These were found to consist of fragments of caramelised sugar and the question of improved cleaning of utensils and equipment was taken up with the manufacturer.

Orange squash

The vitamin A content of the sample of this imported squash was below that claimed on the label. The manufacturing company were at a loss to explain the deficiency and following correspondence between the manufacturer of the product and the Public Analyst, the Company are now investigating the reason why the added beta-carotene does not come out with the correct amount of vitamin A when the squash is analysed.

Real Fruit Yoghurt

The butterfat content of this sample was 3.4 per cent but the label described it as "low-fat". The manufacturer indicated that this had been due to a mistake in the mixing section which had been corrected immediately.

Yoghurt

A sample of imported yoghurt revealed a low-fat content that was not described as such on the label. In addition it carried no list of ingredients used in its preparation as is required by the Labelling of Foods Order 1953.

The importers indicated that this was due to an error at the manufacturer's premises abroad but when similar cartons of the product were seen on sale later in the year a formal sample was submitted for examination and legal proceedings taken. The Company were granted a conditional discharge for twelve months and the Council were awarded five pounds costs.

Low-Fat Spread

The label of this newly introduced product did not conform to the Labelling of Foods Order 1953. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers who amended the labels to conform with the requirements.

Chocolate Yoghurt

The fat content of 2.4 per cent was considered high for one described as "low-fat".

Gin

On analysis, the gin was found to contain 68.9 per cent proof spirit whereas it was stated to contain 70 per cent proof spirit.

Because of the defence allowed under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, no legal action was taken on this occasion and the matter was passed to H.M. Customs and Excise for their consideration under the Customs and Excise Act 1952.

Pesticide Residues in Food—National Survey

The results of the samples taken as part of this scheme during the year ending July 1967 have now been received. None of the samples required to be taken by this Authority, namely, apples, dried fruit and beer contained pesticide residues above the reporting limits. The foods allocated for sampling by this Authority during the current year were pears, strawberries and raspberries, and again none showed evidence of gross contamination.

Food Complaints

A total of 105 food complaints was received in the Department in 1968 and whilst this figure is in parity with previous years, there is some evidence of a decline in the number of complaints of mould, probably as a result of the absence of any real heatwave during the summer which in previous years has sometimes cruelly spotlighted shortcomings in stock rotation.

Nine complaints concerning the condition of milk bottles were substantiated and although the dairy industry cannot afford complacency, the matter must be viewed in perspective. Accepting that the nine complaints were not the only dirty bottles sold to the public but were probably the worst offenders, then if each member of the population of the Urban District has been persuaded by the Milk Marketing Board to drink his pinta milka day during 1968, the nine complaint bottles must be examined against a total public consumption of something like 40 million pints.

A full page article in the Council's newspaper "Link" under the heading "Digest This Before You Complain About Food" was produced

by the Department to attempt to educate the public into the best method of making an official food complaint. In my experience, many complaints, sometimes including those of a most serious nature, often become complete non-starters because the customer has tampered with the evidence or acted in an unorthodox manner. For example, an alleged "dirty" milk bottle had been emptied and thoroughly cleaned before being brought to the Department and a woman who complained vehemently about a packet of pearl barley which was infested with insects was quite unable, on being questioned, to remember where she bought it!

Food Complaints Referred to the Public Analyst

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Foreign matter in bread	This sample consisted of a slice of white bread showing a brownish mass about $\frac{1}{4}$ " by $\frac{3}{8}$ " firmly embedded in the cut surface just beneath the crust. Microscopical examination showed that the mass consisted of stale dough containing traces of mould growth.	Warning letter to bakery.
Foreign matter and maggot in bread	This sample consisted of four fragments of white bread including the crust, which on examination was found to contain masses of blackish matter firmly embedded in the crumb just beneath the crust. This blackish matter was found to consist of insect web and frass and included numerous insect fragments.	Legal proceedings instituted. Bakers fined £20 with 5 gns. costs.
Foreign matter in bread	This sample consisted of two blackish pellets each about $\frac{1}{16}$ " in diameter and about $\frac{1}{8}$ " long. Microscopical examination showed that they consisted of charred crust containing traces of iron.	Warning letter to bakery.
Sour tonic wine	This sample consisted of the residue of a small bottle of tonic wine, submitted following a complaint that it tasted sour and mouldy. When opened a slightly sour smell was noted from the bottle but it was found that the wine still remaining in the bottle was of satisfactory composition, and showed no evidence of any significant secondary fermentation. On further examination it was found that the slightly sour smell originated from the cork which was found to be infected with a small amount of yeast and other micro-organisms.	Purchase price refunded by Company. No further action.

*Nature
of Complaint**Analyst's Report**Action Taken*

Stale tinned
baby food

This sample consisted of an opened can of Tomato, Spaghetti and Beef Junior Dinner. Part of the contents had already been removed and I understand that a complaint was received that a separation of oil appeared to have taken place when it was opened and the contents smelt stale, fatty and the red colour which is normally present was in fact absent. A careful examination of the can in which this sample was packed showed no obvious fault and the lacquer was sound and still intact. Bearing in mind that the can had been opened approximately one week when I received it, the contents appeared to be in reasonably satisfactory condition and chemical analysis showed no evidence of any harmful contamination or deterioration. An unopened can bearing the same embossed code was also submitted for examination, this was found to be quite sound and satisfactory in all respects.

Fault in seam of can which was undetectable during routine inspection. Letter to manufacturer.

Loaf of bread
containing
foreign
material

This sample consisted of 11 slices including one end crust of white bread. All the slices showed streaks of blackish discolouration covering up to one quarter of the area of the surface of the slices. Microscopical examination showed that these streaks were caused by the incorporation of minute particles of charred dough.

Warning letter to bakery.

Cigarette stub
in portion of
fish and chips

The sample consisted of a portion of chips together with the remains of a piece of fried fish which was submitted for examination following a complaint that it contained a cigarette stub. My examination of the sample showed the presence of the remains of a cigarette end lying on top of the chips. The cigarette paper had become opened and both the paper and the adhering tobacco were found to be fully saturated with oil or fat. Fragments of tobacco were found adhering to a number of the chips. From my examination of the remains of this cigarette end I formed the opinion that its condition was consistent with it having been cooked with the chips.

Warning letter to retailer.

*Nature
of Complaint*

Analyst's Report

Action Taken

Dirt in bread	This sample consisted of a number of fragments of white bread several of which showed streaks of greyish brown matter embedded in the crumb. Microscopical examination showed that the embedded matter consisted of charred dough containing traces of iron.	Warning letter to bakery.
Foreign body in bottle of milk	This sample consisted of a soft creamy mass approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ " in diameter, which was found to consist mainly of milk solids but included traces of miscellaneous dust and insect fragments.	Strong warning letter to dairy.
Unsound orange squash	This sample was submitted following a complaint that it was unsound due to an excessive smell and taste of sulphur dioxide. It was found that the sample has a satisfactory composition for a low calorie squash and contains sulphur dioxide . . . 180 parts per million. The Preservatives in Food Regulations 1962 permit a fruit squash to contain 350 p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide. The sulphur dioxide content of this orange squash does not therefore exceed the maximum permitted in the above Regulations. It is frequently observed when opening a bottle of a preparation such as this that the sulphur dioxide can be detected by the nose. When correctly diluted, however, no smell or flavour is detectable.	Complaint not substantiated. No further action.
Unsound sausages	Sample consisted of two small fragments of sausages, each fragment including a portion of outer skin. The creamy-white deposit on the surface of the skin was found on microscopical examination to consist of mould growth.	Warning letter to vendor.
Insect in sausage	Sample consisted of two sausages linked together, and separately wrapped, the remains of a fly. One of the sausages showed a perforation in the skin about half way along its length. Examination of the fly showed that it appeared to be the incomplete body of a blow fly, and microscopical examination showed traces of sausage meat adhering to it. There was no evidence of insect remains in the perforation in the skin of the sausage. The result of my examination of the fly is compatible with it having been embedded in sausage meat.	Legal proceedings. Fined £10. £5 costs.

*Nature
of Complaint*

Analyst's Report

Action Taken

Adhesive
dressing in
sausage

This sample consisted of a cooked sausage cut or broken in two unequal parts together with a crumpled fragment of surgical plaster measuring approximately 1" by 11/16". The lint dressing on the plaster had a film of sausage meat attached to it but appeared to show no staining. The plaster had a perforated pink plastic backing. The larger portion of sausage showed a cavity in the cut surface which would accommodate the plaster. The results of my examination are compatible with the plaster having been cooked in the sausage.

Legal
proceedings.
Fined £20.
£5 costs.

Foreign matter
in bread

This sample consisted of a buttered slice of wheatmeal bread folded in two and having a mass of pale greenish matter measuring approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $\frac{1}{4}$ " embedded in the crumb and passing right through the slice. My examination showed that the pale greenish matter consisted of stale dough containing traces of copper.

Warning
letter to
bakery.

Bitter taste
in ice lolly

Analysis showed that it contained the following substance in proportion as under:—

Calcium chloride . . . 0.5 per cent. The presence of calcium chloride would be likely to give rise to an unusual flavour and its presence is probably due to contamination of the lolly mixture by calcium chloride brine during the refrigeration process.

Warning
letter to
manufacturer.

Foreign matter
in sausage
roll

This sample consisted of the remains of a sausage roll and was found to include a dark blackish foreign body measuring approximately 10mm by 5mm and was nearly cylindrical in shape. My examination shows that it consists essentially of dried blood embedded on a matrix of connective tissue.

No further
action.

Foreign matter
in sliced loaf

This sample consisted of six slices of white bread including one end crust. Two adjacent slices each showed a pale brown coloured body approximately $\frac{5}{8}$ " by $\frac{5}{16}$ ", firmly embedded in the cut surface of the slices in corresponding positions. The two foreign bodies were identified as the remains of a "cork" tip cigarette filter tip sliced longitudinally. There was no evidence of any tobacco remaining in the filter tip or in the surrounding bread.

Legal
proceedings.
Fined £10.
£3 costs.

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Unsound mussels	This sample consisted of an unopened jar of pickled mussels submitted following a complaint that the mussels in a similar jar had a green and stale appearance. The sample had a similar greenish appearance but my analysis showed no evidence of any contamination or deterioration likely to be harmful to the consumer. It is understood that mussels occasionally acquire this greenish tinge due to natural causes.	Complaint not substantiated.
Foreign matter in tin of spam	This sample consisted of a portion of luncheon meat weighing approximately $11\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. and having several slices cut from one end. Embedded in the cut surface at one end of the main mass of luncheon meat was a small black body, the meat surrounding the site of the body showed a brownish stain. When removed the foreign matter was found to consist of a cylindrical rod of ferrous metal 5mm long and 1mm in diameter. The brown stain in the meat surrounding the site of the foreign matter was due to the presence of traces of iron derived from it.	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Foreign matter in sausage	This sample consisted of about half a cooked sausage measuring about 2" long and 1" in diameter together with an irregular shaped fragment of similar sausage about 2" long and $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter. A length of greyish matter protruded from the second fragment. The greyish matter was found to consist of a strip of paper measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ " by $\frac{1}{2}$ " firmly embedded in the sausage.	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Marks on butter	This sample consisted of a small quantity of butter in which were embedded two minute brownish specks. Microscopical examination showed that these brownish specks consisted of fragments of paper.	Warning letter to manufacturer.

Food Complaints Where Analysis Was Not Required

Nature of Complaint

Moths in plain flour
 Old milk bottle tops in milk
 Match in tinned ham
 Dirty milk bottle

 Mildewed tea

 Brown paper in sliced loaf
 Wasp in tin of Spanish apricots

 Beetle in tin of South African pineapple
 "Dirty" milk bottle

 Burnt peanuts

 Overcooked pie

 Mouldy sausages

 Mouldy cheddar cheese

 Rancid butter

 Fish cakes alleged unfit
 Dirty milk bottle

 Tainted milk
 Fly in cheese
 Mouldy apple pie
 Mouldy ham
 Fly in tin of tuna fish

 String in doughnut
 Dirty milk bottle
 Glass in bread
 Unsound tin of Danish cream

Action

Insufficient evidence for prosecution.
 Warning letter to dairy.
 Warning letter to importers.
 Referred to Southend County Borough as produced in that district.
 Warning letter to retailer regarding stock retention.
 Warning letter to bakery.
 Letter to importers who agreed to take matter up with the canners.
 Letter to importers.

 Apparent staining was due to settlement of milk solids. No further action.
 Retailer replaced goods. No further action.
 Retailer requested to ensure proper rotation of pies whilst being cooked and sold.
 Warning letter to retailer recommending strict coding and rotation of stock.
 Legal proceedings. Retailer fined £20 plus £3 costs.
 Warning letter to retailer regarding stock rotation.
 Complaint not substantiated.
 Insufficient evidence—dairy notified of complaint.
 Complaint not substantiated.
 Warning letter to retailer.
 Complaint not substantiated.
 Warning letter to retailer.
 Letter to importers who agreed to notify canners in Japan.
 Warning letter to bakery.
 Warning letter to dairy.
 Warning letter to bakery.
 Tainted due to inefficient tinning on the interior of the tin.
 Letter to importers requesting they draw the matter to the attention of the canners.
 Identified as "struvite", crystals of magnesium salts—a harmless deposit found naturally in salmon. No action.

Alleged "glass" in tin of salmon

Nature of Complaint

Foreign matter in bottle of milk

Cheese alleged to cause sickness

Unsound meat pie

Unsound luncheon meat

Dirty bread

Dirty milk bottle

Fish alleged to smell of ammonia

Cod containing worms

Dirt in churn of milk

Can of oranges suspected of causing sickness

Foreign matter on crust of pie

Mouldy loaf of bread

Unsound tin of meat

Glass in bottle of school milk

Dirty milk bottle

Unsound lemons

Unsound bacon joint

Foreign matter in steak pie

Maggots in bacon joint

Foreign matter in bread

Fibre in biscuit

Unsound bacon

Bacon sold after expiry date on packet

Mouldy potatoes

Action

Foreign matter found to be cement adhering firmly to the base of the bottle. Warning letter to dairy.

Submitted for bacteriological examination. Laboratory report satisfactory. No further action.

Warning letter to retailers.

Warning letter to manufacturers.

Due to traces of edible oil or grease from the bakery machinery. Warning letter to bakery to exercise greater care when lubricating.

Legal proceedings. Case dismissed.

Considered to be fit. Complaint not substantiated.

Round worms natural to cod—harmless. Retailer replaced goods.

Probability of dirt gaining access after filling—churn of milk replaced.

Bacteriologist's report stated that no harmful organisms found.

Discolouration from vegetable lubricating oil. No further action.

No action possible due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint.

Found to be due to defective tin. Letter to vendor and manufacturer.

Warning letter to dairy.

Referred to Southend County Borough as produced in that district.

Evidence insufficient for prosecution. Complaint not substantiated.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Warning letter to retailer.

Found to be lubricating oil with aluminium compounds. Warning letter to bakery.

Warning letter to manufacturers.

Complaint not substantiated. No action.

Letter to retailer regarding stock rotation.

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint. Retailer replaced goods.

Nature of Complaint

Unsound tin of pineapple

Unsound knuckle of pork

Unsound bacon

Dirty milk bottle

Mouldy pork pie

Unsound pork chop

Unsound eggs

Mouldy Cornish pasties

Unsound cream

Mould in cream cakes

Unsound fish fingers

Insect in tin of soup

Mouldy loaf of bread

Mildewed loaf of bread

Stale fish

Milk alleged to be watered

Angel layer cake affected with mould

Foreign body in bread roll

Unsound liqueur flavoured chocolate bottles

Unsound fried fish

Tin of picnic pork discoloured

Worm in cod fillet

Cheese affected with mould

Unsound kidney

Unsound mixed vegetables

Mouldy jam

Metal in tin of cream

Action

Bottom two slices affected with mould caused by puncture at base of tin. Unable to ascertain when puncture was caused. No further action.

Warning letter to vendor.

Warning letter to vendor.

Warning letter to dairy.

Warning letter to vendor.

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint.

Complaint not substantiated.

Warning letter to retailer regarding stock rotation.

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint.

Warning letters to retailer and manufacturer.

Legal proceedings. Fined £25, £2 costs.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Letter to complainant regarding storage facilities.

Warning letter to bakery regarding stock rotation.

Complaint not substantiated.

Referred to Southend County Borough as produced in that district.

Warning letter to manufacturer and retailer.

Warning letter to bakery.

Warning letter to retailer and importer.

Slight smell of ammonia but no evidence of unsoundness. Complainant advised.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Natural round worm in musculature—harmless.

Warning letters to the manufacturer and retailer.

Letter to retailer.

Complaint not substantiated.

Three weeks elapsed between purchase of article and complaint. No action.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Action</i>
Milk bottle containing foreign matter	Foreign matter consisted of a piece of small colourless plastic. No further action.
Foreign matter in bread	Warning letter to bakery.
Screw found in school dinner	Complaint not substantiated.
Delilah Jaffa orange juice alleged to cause sickness	Complaint not substantiated.
Foreign matter in bread	Identified as edible seeds used on certain loaves. No action.
Insects in pearl barley	Complainant unable to recall place of purchase. No further action.
Mould on Dairy Cream Dessert	Legal proceedings. Fined £10 and £3 costs.

Unsound Food

Details of food unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors, excluding meat condemned at slaughterhouses, appear in the following table:—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Bacon	—	1	65	1
Butter, margarine and fats	—	1	12	—
Bread and flour ..	—	1	4	8
Cereals	—	3	94	12
Confectionery (flour) ..	—	1	55	8
Cream	—	—	19	7
Cheese (various) ..	—	1	11	7
Fish (fresh)	—	8	105	9
Fish (canned)	—	—	49	14
Fruit (fresh)	—	1	85	10
Fruit (canned)	1	—	62	5
Fruit (dried)	—	—	4	12
Hams (canned)	—	2	61	12
Meat (fresh)	—	8	20	2
Meat (cooked)	—	1	13	4
Meat (canned)	—	4	8	1
Milk (canned and dried)	—	—	75	1
Poultry and game ..	—	1	2	3
Preserves	—	—	79	8
Sausages and sausage meat	—	1	16	6
Soup (canned)	—	1	35	6
Sugar	—	1	25	1
Sundries	—	5	23	2
Vegetables (fresh) ..	—	11	38	—
Vegetables (canned) ..	—	6	25	8
Vegetables (dried) ..	—	—	16	11
Total:	4	7	2	14

Frozen Foods 7,729 packets

MEAT INSPECTION

Towards the end of 1967 additional hanging space was provided at the licensed slaughterhouse at Laindon and this is the first complete year of operation since the improved facilities came into use. The number of animals slaughtered for food there totalled 29,227, showing an increased throughput of nearly 10 per cent compared with last year. Over 12 tons of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

A change-over from the use of sterilised wiping cloths to water sprays in the slaughterhall was made in accordance with the requirements of the Slaughterhouses Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations 1966 and the problems envisaged by the slaughterhouse occupier with regard to drying out, keeping quality and appearance of carcasses do not appear to have materialised.

Apart from very occasional crises due to absence of slaughtermen or the breakdown of vital equipment, the slaughtering hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday, have proved more than adequate to meet the requirements of the trade and my staff have been able to maintain a 100 per cent meat inspection service throughout the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933-1954

Eighteen slaughtermen's licences were issued in the year under review.

MEAT INSPECTION — STATISTICS

TABLE I

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2,485	232	369	14,502	11,639	—
Number inspected	2,485	232	369	14,502	11,639	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcase condemned	4	5	13	87	27	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	332	76	10	1,970	1,347	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	13.52 %	34.91 %	6.21 %	14.2 %	11.8 %	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	137	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.12 %	—	—	—	1.18 %	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	4	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generally and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II

REASON FOR CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHTS OF PARTS
CONDEMNED OTHER THAN THAT SHOWN IN TABLE I

	<i>Pounds</i>
Abscess	1,560
Actinobacillosis	85
Arthritis	157
Cirrhosis and necrosis	830
Cystic infections, parasite, milk spot	6,786
Emaciation	2,598
Fatty change	182
Fevered conditions	1,365
Fascioliasis	3,475
Nephritis and nephrosis	672
Oedema and dropsy	1,637
Peritonitis	650
Pneumonia and pleurisy	2,249
Septicaemia	1,800
Telangiectasis	531
Other conditions	976
=11 tons 8 cwts. 17 lbs.	25,553

TABLE III

WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
For tuberculosis	—	12	47
For cysticerci	—	—	83
Other causes	11	8	17
	12	1	35

Poultry Inspection

There are two premises in the District where poultry is slaughtered in volume but the carcasses are not eviscerated at the place of slaughter. Regular visits to these premises have been made during the year to inspect the conditions under which the premises are used and to check on the rejection system in operation. It has been found by experience that the quality control staff employed by the companies are efficient and conscientious.

Statistics

Number of poultry processing premises within the Urban District	2
Number of visits to these premises	181
Number of birds processed during the year	774,327
Types of birds processed—turkeys, chickens, roasting and boiling fowls and poussins	
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	1.2%
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	12 tons 8 cwts. 0 qrs. 10 lbs.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT**Visits carried out by the Public Health Inspectors:—**

Agricultural safety and welfare	1
Animal boarding establishments	47
Bacteriological sampling	741
Burial	25
Caravans	116
Certificates of disrepair	—
Condemnation of food	209
Consumer protection	141
Commercial premises under construction (plans check)	83
Diseases of Animals Act	76
Entomology and pest control	477
Factories	306
Flood relief	717
Food complaint investigations	336
Food and drugs sampling	198
Food Premises:	
Bakers	52
Butchers	209
Confectioners	162
Cafes, restaurants and hotels	374
Canteens	596
Fishmongers	69
Fried fish shops	56
Grocers	286
Greengrocers	160
Supermarkets	250
Licensed premises	183
Manufacturing premises	43

Stalls and vehicles	3,191
Hairdressers' premises	130
Housing	1,083
Health education	23
Infectious disease enquiries	91
Land charges search check	51
Massage and special treatment premises	4
Meat inspection	794
Merchandise marks	58
Milk distributors and dairymen	10
Noise abatement	367
Nuisances	4,638
Offices and shops	1,676
Overcrowding	10
Pet shops	37
Poultry inspection	181
Rehousing enquiries	110
Riding establishments	13
Rodent control	93
Scrap metal dealers	7
Sewer connections	84
Shops Act, closing hours, etc.	99
Slaughterhouses (cruelty and hygiene)	774
Smoke control	3,353
Social welfare	217
Standard improvement grants	121
Swimming pools	125
Water courses	18
Water supply	306

Total: 23,577

4411 (3)

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BASILDON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PATRICK X. O'DWYER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

For the year 1968

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BASILDON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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For the year 1968

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FOREWORD

The period covered by this Report shows a continuation of most of the trends which one now associates with Basildon, such as increasing population, increasing child population, the adaptation and expansion of the Health, Welfare and School Health services to meet, so far as practicable, the changing and increasing demands made upon them.

Much time has been devoted to planning for the future and many decisions have perforce been made on the basis of information available at one point in time which were necessary to avoid delaying projects such as the Laindon Health Centre. This new Centre will be a milestone in the progress of the local Health Services and its success in fulfilling the hopes of the general practitioners and the local authority sponsors will be a measure of the degree of co-ordination possible between these historically separate branches of the Health Service.

As ever I am indebted to all those who have helped in promoting the work of the Department and especially to my own staff, who have often given generously of their time far beyond the usual hours of duty.

PATRICK X. O'DWYER

98 High Street,
Billericay.
October, 1969.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Senior Administrative Officer

J. E. Plummer

Senior Administrative Assistant

C. A. Watt

Administrative and Clerical Staff

16

Medical Officers

Dr. E. Hodgson, M.B., Ch.B.
(until 27.4.68)

Dr. M. M. Dewar, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
(from 10.6.68)

Dr. J. K. Chakrabarti, M.B., B.S.,
D.A., R.C.S. & P. (from 14.10.68)

Dr. F. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.A.

Dr. J. Buchanan, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. B. Cushnaghan, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. A. Denham, M.B., B.S.

Dr. M. Denham, M.B., B.S.

Dr. R. Goodman, B.Sc., M.B.,
Ch.B.

Dr. J. Newton, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A.

Dr. P. Freeman, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Dr. A. J. E. Millwood, M.B., B.S.

Dr. R. L. Agrawal, M.B., B.S.,
D.C.H.

Sessional

Supervisory Dental Officer

P. R. J. Bush, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng).,
B.D.S., (U.Lond.)

Dental Officers (including above)

11=6.5 whole-time officers

**Director of Child Guidance Service*

Dr. J. N. Runes, M.D.

Visitor for the Blind

Miss E. E. Ruggles

Visitors for the Physically Handicapped

Mrs. E. M. Spicer

P. N. Gorman

Health Visitors

12=11 whole-time officers

Clinic Nurses

10=6 whole-time officers

Training Centre

Junior Section

Supervisor

1

Senior Assistant Supervisor

1

Assistant Supervisors

8

Senior Section

Supervisor

1

Senior Assistant Supervisor

1

Assistant Supervisors

2

Assistant Instructors

3

Day Nursery

Matron

1

Deputy Matron

1

Warden

1

Nursery Nurses

3

Nursery Assistants

2

Nursery Students

6

Bader House

Supervisor

1

Senior Assistant Instructors

2

Clerical Assistant

1

Nursing Officer

Miss M. R. Clarke, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
H.V.

Assistant Nursing Officer

Miss A. M. Delahunty, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Home Help Organisers

Mrs. A. C. Mills

Mrs. A. Deakin (until 31.8.68)

Mrs. P. Steel (from 16.9.68)

Senior Mental Welfare Officer

G. B. Tipping

Mental Welfare Officers

B. Gorman

E. Martin

**Specialist Advisers*

Dr. W. H. Clark, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.,
D.O.

Dr. B. G. Dias, M.B., B.S., D.O.

Dr. D. Nichol, M.B., B.S., D.L.O.

District Midwives

22=21.5 whole-time officers

District Nurses

17

Speech Therapists

Mrs. M. Trim (from 26.3.68)
Miss B. H. Fisher (from 5.8.68)

Social Worker in Child Guidance Clinic

Mrs. G. Ollington

Clinic Clerical Workers

8=4.5 whole-time officers

Chiropodists

5=2.2 whole time officers

Miscellaneous Workers

32 part time
3 whole-time

Nursery Nurses

2.6 whole-time officers

Nursery Assistants

2.6 whole-time officers

Home Helps

104 part-time
3 whole time

* *Regional Hospital Board Appointments*

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1968

Area in Acres	27,139
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1968)	119,470
Rateable value as at 31.3.68	£5,300,116
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	£22,850

VITAL STATISTICS, 1968

Live Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	1,183	1,136	2,319
ILLEGITIMATE	54	60	114
	1,237	1,196	2,433
Total birth rate per 1,000 estimated population			20.4
Comparability factor			0.95
Adjusted birth rate			19.38
England and Wales birth rate, 1968			16.9
Illegitimate live births formed 4.69% of the total births			

Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	13	13	26
ILLEGITIMATE	—	1	1
	13	14	27
Still births rate per 1,000 live and still births			11
England and Wales still birth rate, 1968			14

Total Live and Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	1,196	1,149	2,345
ILLEGITIMATE	54	61	115
	1,260	1,200	2,460

Deaths

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS	445	371	816
Total death rate per 1,000 estimated population			6.8
Comparability Factor			1.50
Adjusted death rate			10.2
England and Wales death rate, 1968			11.9

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births

14

Age at death	No. of infant deaths	Rates per 1000 live births	Legitimate infants	Rates per 1000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate infants	Rates per 1000 illegitimate live births
Under 1 year	34	14	33	14	1	1
Under 4 weeks	21	9	20	9	1	1
Under 1 week	19	8	18	8	1	1

Perinatal Mortality Rates (still births and deaths under one week combined)

Per 1000 total live and stillbirths 19

Maternal Mortality Nil

Causes of Death amongst Civilians as provided by the Registrar-General, 1968

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	11	5	16
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	40	16	56
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	1	19	20
Leukaemia	6	1	7
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	46	36	82
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	3	4
Diabetes Mellitus	2	4	6
Anaemias	1	—	1
Meningitis	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	3	1	4
Active Rheumatic Fever	—	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	5	7	12
Hypertensive Disease	4	7	11
Ischaemic Heart Disease	118	67	185
Other forms of Heart Disease	10	17	27
Cerebrovascular Disease	41	67	108
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	15	14	29
Influenza	4	7	11
Pneumonia	27	35	62
Bronchitis and Emphysema	38	9	47
Asthma	—	3	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	12	5	17
Peptic Ulcer	3	4	7
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	2	2	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	3	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	7	—	7
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	3	4	7
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	2	3
Congenital Anomalies	7	2	9
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	6	3	9
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	5	7
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	1	7	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	12	4	16
All Other Accidents	6	5	11
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	4	1	5
All Other External Causes	1	—	1
TOTAL	445	371	816

HEALTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1968 **PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS 1968**

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year.

	Males	Females
Acute Pneumonia	2	—
Dysentery	1	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	6
Measles	108	92
Pueperal Pyrexia	—	10
Scarlet Fever	35	25
Tuberculosis Other	1	2
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	15	6
Whooping Cough	19	24
TOTALS	181	165

TOTAL ALL DISEASES NOTIFIED FOR THE YEAR

346

Plus food poisoning cases notified

1 male 2 female
(none confirmed)

NOTE: Pueperal Pyrexia and Acute Pneumonia were no longer notifiable infectious diseases after 1st October, 1968.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives details of the age and sex incidence of all new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year.

Age Group	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—
2-4 years	—	—	—	—
5-9 years	1	—	1	—
10-14 years	—	—	—	—
15-19 years	1	—	—	—
20-24 years	2	2	—	—
25-34 years	3	1	—	2
35-44 years	3	2	—	—
45-54 years	3	1	—	—
55-64 years	2	—	—	—
65-74 years	—	—	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	15 (4)	6 (3)	1 (2)	2 (1)

21

3

Inward Transfers

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
Male	Female	Male	Female	
8	3	1	—	12

Outward Transfers

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
Male	Female	Male	Female	
—	—	—	—	—

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

(delegated by Essex County Council under Section 46 of the Local Government Act 1958)

Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22)

Notification of Birth or Stillbirth

During 1968, 2,398 births were notified, an increase of 183 on the previous year. This gave a birth rate of 19.7% per 1,000 of the population. During the year 27 stillbirths were notified.

The number of births notified each year since 1964 is given below:

1964	2,387
1965	2,280
1966	2,333
1967	2,215
1968	2,398

Clinics

The health services sessions carried out at the purpose-built health clinics in Great Oaks, Basildon, Craylands, Laindon, Billericay and Wickford again showed increased attendances over the previous year.

Ante Natal Sessions

Ante Natal Sessions where expectant mothers attended for samples of blood to be taken continued to be held in Great Oaks, Pitsea and Wickford clinics during 1968.

Relaxation classes supervised by health visitors and midwives trained in the psycho-prophalaxis method of relaxation were held at the clinics. At these sessions expectant mothers were taught ante natal and post natal exercises and midwives booked patients for home confinements.

Patients attending sessions	Patients attending for first time	Total Attendances		Total
		Medical Officers Sessions	Midwives Sessions	
Ante-Natal	975 (1,052)	4,363 (4,329)	5,765 (5,644)	10,128 (9,973)

Child Welfare Sessions

These sessions were held at all clinics during 1968 and were well attended.

Sessions continued to be held in hired premises as stated under:

Shotgate Community Centre
 South Green Memorial Hall
 Congregational Church Hall, Thynne Road
 Lee Chapel South Community Centre
 Lee Chapel North Community Centre

Details are given below of the total attendance of children during 1968 together with comparative figures for 1967.

Year of Birth	Total Attendance
1962/67	(1967) 31,286
1963/68	(1968) 30,651

Distribution of Welfare Foods, Medicaments and Nutrients

Government welfare foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin 'A' and 'D' tablets, were sold at health clinics. In addition 11 private traders, chemists and other voluntary distribution centres continued to assist with the distribution of these Government welfare foods.

The table below gives details of sales during the year, the previous year's figures are given in brackets.

National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice	Vitamins A & D
TOTALS 10,106 (19,105)	2,627 (2,789)	42,145 (46,689)	1,418 (2,054)

Proprietary items are also sold at the health clinics, subject to the recommendation of the Medical Officer, health visitor, or midwife in attendance, and these are:

- (a) An evaporated or dried milk;
- (b) A cereal food;
- (c) A Vitamin 'B' preparation;
- (d) A Vitamin 'C' preparation;
- (e) A preparation to assist lactation.

During the year there was an increased demand for these proprietary items which is reflected in the decreased sales of Government welfare foods.

Play Groups and Child Development Sessions

The main purpose of these sessions is to assist families with emotional tensions where a toddler is likely to be disturbed, or who exhibits signs of behaviour disorder.

Children may be referred by the Child Guidance Clinic, a doctor or health visitor, a hospital or a clinic Medical Officer. All admissions and discharges are made on the recommendation of a Medical Officer in consultation with the health visitors.

	Craylands Clinic	Great Oaks Clinic	Wickford Clinic
Sessions held	106	128	104
Number admitted	10	5	7
Number discharged	11	13	8
Total number on Register at 31.12.68	9	13	11

Classification of Reasons for Admission

	Craylands Clinic	Great Oaks Clinic	Wickford Clinic
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—
Fibrocystic Diseases	1	—	—
Cerebral Palsy	1	—	—
Spina Bifida	1	—	1
Speech Defect	3	13	1
Retarded	—	3	1
Lack of Confidence	—	5	—
Other behaviour problems	4	6	1
Home difficulties	—	5	3

Day Nursery (50 places)

The day nursery continued to meet a need in the area and admissions are based on a system of priorities which are:

1. Children of sole wage earners, i.e. widow, widower, a parent separated, divorced or deserted, unmarried mothers, mothers working on account of father's chronic illness.
2. Admissions recommended by the Medical Officer of Health for medical reasons, including cases received from socio-economic circumstances irrespective of whether mothers are in employment.
3. Admissions due to illness of either parent, including confinement of mother or emergency.
4. Children of mothers in employment essential to communal services, i.e., teachers, nurses, etc.
5. Non-priority.

Number of days nursery open	248
Total number of attendances	9,600

Daily Guardian Scheme

None was registered during the year.

Dental Treatment of Mothers and Young Children

Expectant and nursing mothers were offered and given treatment ranging from routine conservation to some denture work.

Interest by parents in bringing their pre-school age children to the

dental clinics for inspection and possible treatment appears to be increasing each year, and this is an encouraging indication of the rising awareness of the public to the benefits of good dental health achieved by routine dental visits and dental health instruction.

Health Education

As the appointment of a full-time Health Education Officer was again deferred on financial grounds the Health Visitor Group Advisor mainly organised the health education programme in the district.

Health Clinics

During the year, at appropriate times, the health visitors have illustrated various aspects of Community Health in the Health Clinics. These topics have included:

- Suitable Footwear and Care of the Feet;
- Dental Health;
- Clean food and Storage of food;
- Smoking and Lung Cancer, and Bronchitis;
- Danger of Fireworks;
- Safety in the home at Christmas time – Holidays and general home safety.

Health visitors have given talks and shown films and slides to various groups, including Home Helps, Church Groups, Parent Teacher Associations, Young Wives and Mothers Groups, Clubs for the Elderly.

Students have visited the Health Clinics and discussed the work of the clinics with health visitors and other members of the staff.

Students who have attended include medical secretaries, pupil midwives, student nurses, student teachers, trainee probation officers, student health visitors and pupils from comprehensive schools in the area.

Schools

Several courses of lectures, films and discussions have been arranged during the year at Comprehensive Schools in the area and specialist speakers, including a medical officer of the Department have attended these meetings.

Subjects have included:

- Dental Health;
- Parenthood – Immunisation – Mothercraft;
- Health and Hygiene – communicable diseases;
- Human Biology – sex education;
- Venereal Disease
- Dangers of Smoking;
- Dangers of Drugs;
- Miscellaneous topics.

Help has been given by health visitors to various projects in the schools including an exhibition on Parentcraft. Much more time has been spent on Health Education in schools during this year.

Midwifery Service

(Section 23)

The Midwifery Service continued to run smoothly with little incident and with only one change in staff. Throughout the year a full establishment of midwives was maintained.

The birth rate in the Urban District increased slightly over 1967.

Twenty-nine more babies over the previous year were born at home and 37 more mothers and babies returned home very early after delivery.

Statistics

Home confinements	911
Hospital confinements (discharges home before the tenth day, 1,311)	1,587
TOTAL	2,498

The training in psycho-prophalaxis was continued, practically all the midwives are now trained to teach this method of relaxation during childbirth.

Telephone answering machines are still proving to be an asset to the service, and two further machines have been installed this year.

Pupil midwives from Thorpe Coombe, Orsett and St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, also one from Rochford have received their practical training in the area. All have passed their examinations successfully.

These pupils are presented with prizes for their work during training and Miss Clarke, our Nursing Officer, accepted the invitation from the Matron of Thorpe Coombe Hospital in June 1968 and presented the prizes to the successful candidates.

Health Visiting (Section 24)

1968 proved to be equally as difficult as 1967 regarding the shortage of health visitors. All areas in the Urban District were understaffed and no increase in the establishment was possible. The service had to be augmented by clinic nurses and every effort was made to continue the usual high standards of the past.

It is hoped that the higher recruitment of student health visitors within the Council, will ultimately ease the staffing situation of health visitors.

This acute shortage of qualified staff did result in visits of the pre-school child being slightly less than the previous year, but visits to the elderly almost doubled as the figures show, following an experimental pilot scheme of employing a special Geriatric Visitor.

No. of Visits paid by Health Visitors	First Visit	Total Visits
Children under 1 year	3,030	13,936 (14,123)
Children aged 1-2 years	3,634	
Children aged 2-5 years	3,897	
Other cases	1,190	1,732 (1,680)
Persons aged 65 years and over	1,413	2,820 (1,945)
TOTALS	13,154 (11,821)	18,488 (17,748)

Health Education in the schools on many subjects was requested. The Group Advisor, in conjunction with the County Health Education Officer, arranged lectures, film shows, etc., both for the children in school and Parent Teacher Associations, in conjunction with the teachers.

The General Practitioner attachment is working well in the Laindon area, and as recruitment of staff improves attachments will be arranged as required.

Screening Tests

(a) for Deafness

Screening was carried out by the health visitors of infants 'at risk' to ascertain if they had hearing defects.

(b) for phenylketonuria

Routine tests on babies are undertaken for this rare condition, which leads to severe mental subnormality unless discovered and treated very early. During the year 2,060 first tests were carried out and 1,600 second tests. No positive cases were reported.

Congenital Malformations

As from 1st January, 1964 a scheme was introduced nationally for the notification of children born with congenital malformations apparent at birth.

During the year 38 children with such malformations were reported and the following is an analysis of the total of 39 malformations notified.

	1965	1966	1967	1968
Central Nervous System	16	13	10	9
Other system	—	—	1	1
Limbs	10	6	5	12
Miscellaneous Malformations	7	3	2	3
Uro-genital system	4	3	2	4
Alimentary system	3	1	2	5
Respiratory system	1	1	—	1
Other Skeletal	1	—	—	1
Eye Ear	1	—	2	—
Heart and Great Vessels	—	3	3	3

The notification scheme was introduced following the demonstration of the effects of the drug thalidomide and suspicions of other drugs which helped to demonstrate the need for a continued record of at least the major abnormalities detectable at birth.

'At Risk' Register

Six hundred and thirty were placed on the 'At Risk' register making a total of 1,754 children on the register at the end of 1968, who had been subject to certain adverse influences in perinatal life.

The names of 328 children were removed from the register after medical examination showed that no further special observation was necessary.

Home Nursing Service (Section 25)

The establishment of 16 district nurses, which included two male nurses, was maintained in 1968.

Following termination of the Queen's Institute Training Courses in 1968, and inauguration of a training scheme within the County of Essex, arrangements were made for one district nurse to attend the course, but due to an unfortunate accident this nurse was unable to attend. It is anticipated that two nurses will attend courses in 1969.

The number of nursing cases increased in the year with a higher percentage of acute cases and injections.

Three nurses are in general practitioner attachment serving two groups of doctors.

Statistics

Type of Case	No. of new cases attended by home nurses during the year	No. of visits paid by home nurses during the year	No. of cases on the books 31.12.68
Medical	954 (938)	33,784 (31,980)	274 (323)
Surgical	293 (236)	5,315 (4,415)	52 (36)
Maternal			
Complications	5 (1)	30 (3)	1 (—)
Tuberculosis	2 (5)	71 (283)	2 (—)
Others	32 (42)	1,213 (1,834)	17 (71)
TOTALS	1,286 (1,222)	40,413 (38,515)	346 (370)

The number of visits paid by district nurses rose by 1,898 over the previous year.

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act 1948

From 1st November 1968 Section 60 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 amended the Act to remove various deficiencies which had become evident in its operation.

Section 1 (1)(a) of the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act was amended so that if children were received for a period of two hours a day, instead of a substantial part of a day, registration of the premises was required.

Section 1 (1)(b) was amended so that it is an offence for an unregistered person for reward to look after in her home one or more children to whom she is not related for two hours per day. Previously registration was not required unless more than two children were minded.

There was a period of grace of three months before an offence against the amended provision arose.

The amendments to the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act resulted in a sharp increase in the number of enquiries and eventual registration as the following figures show:

Section 1 (1)(a) Number of Play Groups registered	31 (26)
Section 1 (1)(b) Number of persons registered	26 (22)
Number of children being cared for	896 (692)

In all cases the applicants receive an initial visit from the Superintendent Nursing Officer before registration is granted and registered child minders and play groups are visited regularly by health visitors who help and give advice whenever necessary.

Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

Vaccination against Smallpox

The following table records the number of persons known to have

been vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year by general practitioners and clinic medical officers.

Figures for 1967 are given in brackets.

Age at date of Vaccination	Primary Vaccinations 1968	Re-Vaccination 1968
Under 1 year	56 (77)	— (3)
1 year	837 (1,026)	2 (—)
2-4 years	278 (293)	9 (13)
5-15 years	88 (71)	69 (86)
TOTALS	1,259 (1,467)	80 (102)

Triple Antigen (diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus)

The table below gives statistical information relating to immunisation using the triple antigen:

	1968	1967	1966	1965	61/64	Under 16	Total
No. of children who received primary course	585	1,051	49	13	26	2	1,726
No. of children who received reinforcing immunisation	1	392	1,014	112	468	61	2,049

Poliomyelitis

Arrangements for vaccination against poliomyelitis continued throughout the year.

	1968	1967	1966	1965	61/64	Under 16	Total
No. of persons who received primary oral course	483	1,231	132	40	109	26	2,021
No. of persons who received reinforcing dose	—	126	379	57	1,774	292	2,628

Measles Vaccination

A nation-wide scheme for vaccination against measles was brought into operation in May 1968; during May, June and July vaccination was offered to susceptible children between their fourth and seventh birthdays. The vaccination of other age groups up to 15 years was made available in August. For routine immunisation in early childhood measles vaccine should be given in the second year of life.

Measles Vaccination: May–December 1968

Children born in:

1968	1967	1966	1965	61/64	Under 16	Total
3	283	355	310	1,293	198	2,442

Revised Schedule of Vaccination and Immunisation Procedures

It was recommended by the Minister of Health that a revised schedule should be substituted for schedules previously used, and this was brought into operation in September. This revised schedule made several important modifications affecting the minimum age at which immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and poliomyelitis should begin, the spacing in the basic course of immunisation against these diseases, and the spacing of subsequent reinforcing doses. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation regarded these changes as desirable if an optimum immunological response to immunisation is to be obtained.

Prevention of Illness**Care and After Care****(Section 28)****Recuperative Holidays**

Recommendations for recuperative holidays for patients were received from general practitioners and hospital consultants and it was possible to arrange holidays for 55 persons.

Chiropody

Chiropody treatment continued to be provided for the priority classes.

It was again not possible to recruit up to the full establishment of three full-time chiropodists and the waiting time between appointments was 10 to 12 weeks.

The table below gives an indication of the work carried out by the part-time chiropodists.

Category	New cases being treated during year	Cases being treated at end of year	Clinic attendances during year	Domiciliary treatment
Physically handicapped	13 (9)	35 (37)	74 (82)	71 (183)
Aged 65 years and over	393 (244)	1,302 (1,141)	4,344 (3,294)	1,249 (1,806)
TOTALS	406 (263)	1,237 (1,178)	4,418 (3,375)	1,320 (1,689)

In addition to the work carried out at the clinics and in domiciliary visits, a chiropodist attended Mundy House and Chaplin Lodge, the County Council's old people's residential homes in the urban district, to give regular treatment to the residents.

Extra Nourishment

Arrangements whereby patients suffering from chest complaints can receive one pint of milk per day free on the recommendation of the chest physician continued.

Sixty-one people were receiving free milk at the end of 1968 as against 58 at the end of 1967.

Incontinent Pads and Draw Sheets

The arrangements whereby disposable pads were issued free of charge to incontinent persons nursed at home continued, draw sheets being provided as an alternative if required.

The disposal of the pads is usually carried out by burning or placing in dustbins and where difficulties arose arrangements for incineration were made with St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay. There are signs that with the ever increasing use of these disposable dressings that in the near future consideration will have to be given to this problem.

Cervical Cytology

Weekly cytology sessions were held at Billericay, Wickford and Great Oaks, Basildon, Clinics, and fortnightly sessions also held at Pitsea Clinic. From July 1968 this service was also provided at Craylands Clinic, Basildon. Approximately 15 women were examined at each clinic session. It was usually possible to provide an appointment within four weeks. The slides taken in the area were submitted to the Pathology Laboratory at St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, and the patients' general medical practitioners were notified of the result.

One thousand, six hundred and seventeen examinations were carried out during the year, of which six were positive. These and other conditions found at the time of attendance and requiring treatment have been followed up and women referred to their doctors. Examination of breasts is carried out at the same session as cervical cytology.

Since the incidence of carcinoma *in situ* and carcinoma of cervix is known to be highest in social classes IV and V, especially in association with certain other factors and the proportion of attenders from these social groups is relatively small, further consideration is being given to the provision of the test to women in the local factories.

In addition to the local authority service, general medical practitioners offer the smear test to their patients and the Family Planning Association include the test in the services they offer at their clinic sessions. (See detailed analysis on page 21.)

Medical Arrangements for Long-Stay Immigrants

Ministry of Health Circular dated January 1965

Notices were received from port medical authorities in respect of 19 long-stay immigrants whose destination addresses were in the Basildon Urban District. Arrangements were made for these persons to be contacted by the health visitor for the purpose of explaining facilities available under the Health Service and of persuading them to register with a medical practitioner and to arrange for a chest X-ray.

Notices received	19	
Successfully contacted	15	} 19
Removed to known addresses in other areas and notices forwarded to appropriate medical officers	2	
Untraceable	2	

Fluoridation of Water Supplies

The Council decided in November 1965 to support the principle of fluoridation of water supplies but it was again not possible to implement this decision due to involved technical difficulties and the financial cost.

ANALYSIS OF WOMEN ATTENDING LOCAL AUTHORITY CYTOLOGY SESSIONS DURING THE YEAR

	No. of births (including still births)	Age Group					All Ages	No. of repeat examinations carried out (All ages)
		Under 25 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and above		
Single	—	2	—	2	1	—	5	
Married	—	6	34	38	16	6	100	
	1	8	72	82	30	10	202	
	2	10	225	192	80	17	524	
	3	2	114	102	40	10	268	
	4	1	25	40	16	3	85	
	5 or more	—	12	23	13	7	55	
TOTAL	—	29	482	479	196	53	1,239	378

Of the total number of examinations performed approximately 38% were carried out at Great Oaks Clinic, 25% at Wickford Clinic, 21% at Billericay Clinic, 9% at Pitsea Clinic and the remaining 7% at Craylands Clinic.

During the year discussions and correspondence took place between myself, Southend Waterworks Company and the other 11 local authorities who receive water supplies from the Company.

A Ministry of Health circular 24/68 dated 20th June 1968 was received which urged all local authorities to adopt fluoridation and removed altogether the time limit on the indemnity against proceedings being taken against a local authority on the grounds of injury to health.

Home Help Service (Section 29)

The total hours worked by home helps in the year ended 31st December 1968 was 93,401 hours, of which 83,122 hours, i.e., 89% was provided for persons aged 65 or over. This compared with 82,675 hours provided for aged persons in 1967.

A meeting of home helps took place which enabled them to discuss the service and any problems with the Home Help Organisers. A talk was given by the Health Visitor Group Adviser on Home Safety and Food Values and films were shown 'I'm no Fool with Fire' and 'Nothing to Eat but Food'. Arrangements were also made for home helps to attend a lecture at the Offices of the North Thames Gas Board on the subject of 'Conversion to Natural Gas'. When this changeover was subsequently effected in the Basildon Urban District, home helps were able to assist patients experiencing difficulties, particularly the elderly, by contacting Home Help Organisers or the Gas Board direct.

Statistics

Requests for help from new cases during the year	502	(540)
Cases not eligible for assistance or not requiring service	196	(182)
New cases helped during the year	306	(358)
Cases being helped at the end of the year	659	(608)
Total cases helped during the year	914	(947)
Total number of hours of help provided during the year	93,401	(95,444)

The categories of cases helped during the year were as follows:

Chronic sick under 65 years of age	61	(67)
Aged 65 years of age or over	732	(689)
Maternity	70	(113)
Others (acute illness, mental disorders, problem families, etc.)	51	(78)

Good Neighbour Service

The Good Neighbour Service continued to expand. This service provides for evening and weekend visits to patients needing extra care beyond that offered by the home help and includes personal services such as washing, etc., and preparation of meals when the "Meals on Wheels" service is not available.

During the year 44 patients were attended by Good Neighbours as compared with 34 in 1967 and 26 patients were still receiving service at the end of the year.

Night Attendance Service

This service continued to be available for the assistance of patients residing alone and requiring day and night attendance or for the relief of relatives caring for terminal patients. There were two requests for help but the patients concerned were admitted to hospital before the service was commenced.

Staff

There were 113 Home Helps in service at the end of 1968 as compared with 111 at the end of 1967.

The establishment of Home Help Organisers remained at two.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The work of 'Community Care' continued during 1968.

The following figures relate to the work of the Mental Welfare Officers during the year:

	1968
1. Number of admissions	
(a) To psychiatric hospitals	128
(b) To other hospitals	5
2. Number of severely subnormal persons receiving community care	109
3. Number of subnormal persons receiving community care	62
4. Total visits paid to category (3)	1,371
5. Total visits paid in connection with (1) above	412
6. Visits to mentally ill	1,549

Whilst work with the mentally subnormal remains fairly static there has been a considerable increase in visiting of the mentally ill, undoubtedly due to the increasing use of the community care services by the local psychiatric hospital and family doctors.

The Psychiatric Club is held every Wednesday evening at Bader House and concert parties and lectures are greatly appreciated as a diversion from the routine club activities.

Training Centres

The Supervisor of the Junior Training Centre reports:

The number of children on the register of the centre at the end of year was 78.

Three children in the Special Care Unit, which accommodates 13 children, progressed enough to be moved into the main centre.

Three children in the centre were reassessed and are now attending educationally subnormal schools.

Swimming sessions at the Council's Gloucester Park Swimming Pool began on 13th May 1968 and 16 children are attending weekly. All children gained confidence and great enjoyment from the sessions and four or five are able to swim a few strokes.

Other sporting activities included five-a-side football and netball.

A Speech Therapist commenced visiting the Centre one morning each week from 12th September and 10 children are receiving therapy.

A successful Sports Day was held on 3rd June, this was very well attended by parents and visitors.

The Nativity Play on 11th December, written, produced and directed by a member of the staff was very well received and attended.

Other social events also took place in the year, including a staff revue, which was performed at the Centre's Christmas Party.

Once again we were glad to welcome a number of students to the centre, from the Orsett School of Nursing and other training courses.

The Supervisor of the Senior Training Centre reports:

The Senior Centre has increased the amount of industrial work undertaken and this work has been received from Ford Motor Company, Ilford Film, and G. R. Wren Ltd. Activities such as domestic science, swimming, outward bound visits, gardening, football, netball, etc., still play an important part.

In November a new wage scheme came into operation, whereby trainees received a regular weekly wage.

The number of trainees on the register has remained fairly static, i.e., approximately 75 – 41 males and 34 females.

A sale of work was held at St. Martin's Church Hall, Basildon, at which some £40 worth of goods were sold to parents and the general public.

There has been close liaison between the Senior and Junior Centres.

The transition programme for juniors into the seniors for one afternoon per week has also been encouraged.

WELFARE SERVICES

Care of the Blind and Physically Handicapped (Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948)

The work of promoting the welfare of the blind, deaf or dumb, and persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity continued during the year. Handicapped persons were visited in their homes by the three full-time Social Welfare Officers; adaptations and alterations to dwellings were undertaken where necessary; loan of equipment, aids and gadgets was arranged, assistance with holidays provided, and a wide variety of personal and social problems dealt with.

Bader House Occupational Centre provided facilities for physically handicapped persons to learn crafts such as basketwork, toy making, carpentry, etc., and the handicraft class for the blind had also moved into the Centre. Various local voluntary societies, mainly those concerned with groups of handicapped persons, made use of the premises for evening social club meetings.

The social clubs and old-time dancing classes for the blind enjoyed continued popularity.

A course of mobility classes was held with the object of teaching the blind participants to make full use of the white stick and to develop their powers of orientation through the senses of smell, hearing and memory. Road drill was included, also free movement in the form of keep-fit exercises and games.

The classes proved very useful in demonstrating what could be done by this type of teaching, and those taking part felt they had derived considerable benefit from them.

A social club for the deaf commenced regular monthly meetings in January. The meetings are very informal; members play cards and other games and converse with one another. A film show was very successful, and occasional visits were made to other clubs, but the chief enjoyment lies in the social contact and opportunity to become friendly with other deaf persons, since difficulty in communication can result in a deaf individual or family feeling rather isolated within the ordinary community.

About a dozen attend regularly, plus five to six non-handicapped helpers.

Following the opening of Gloucester Park Swimming Pool in April arrangements were made for the pool to be hired by the Health Department on the first Saturday evening of each month, for the use of disabled persons.

The Basildon Swimming Club very kindly volunteered to look after the handicapped bathers and this assistance has proved invaluable in creating confidence in the water and encouraging people to learn to swim.

Statistics are given below:

Physically Handicapped Register at 31st December 1968:

Classification:	M	F	Total
Amputees	17	12	29
Arthritis/Rheumatism	35	163	198
Congenital Deformation	5	6	11
Heart and Circulatory System			
Digestive and Genito-urinary system }	23	19	42
Respiratory System, Skin Diseases }			
Injuries of Body and Head	19	16	35
Injuries of Limbs and Spine }			
Ankylosing Spondylitis }			
Nervous and Mental Disorders	5	1	6
Epileptics, Plegics, Spastics	80	78	158
Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy }			
Parkinson's Disease, Poliomyelitis }			
Tuberculosis, Respiratory and			
Non-Respiratory	4	3	7
Diseases and injuries not otherwise specified	7	11	18
Totals	195	309	504

Blind Register at 31st December 1968:

Classification	M	F	Total
Children aged 2-4+ at home	1	1	2
Children aged 5-15+ in special schools	—	2	2
Employed at Home Work	—	1	1
Employed otherwise	13	3	16
Unemployed – Employable – trained for Open Employment	1	—	1
Unemployed – Employable – trainable for Open Employment	1	—	1
Unemployed – Employable without training for Open Employment	1	—	1
Not available for Employment	—	10	10
Not capable of Employment	11	5	16
Not working – over 65	40	84	124
Totals	68	106	174
Partially Sighted Register	15	44	59

District Council Welfare Services

National Assistance Act 1948 (Amendment) Act 1962

Day Centre for the Elderly

The George Hurd Day Centre and Central Kitchen opened on 18th September 1967, its purpose being to provide mid-day meals for elderly people in the dining room at the Centre, at Luncheon Clubs throughout the District, and to supply the Women's Royal Voluntary Service Meals on Wheels Service. In addition, the Centre has a large, comfortable lounge with facilities for darts, reading, television, and other recreational activities.

The demand for meals has increased steadily since the Centre's opening and by the end of the year approximately 1,750 meals were being produced weekly. Of these, approximately one-third were for those elderly people attending the Centre, one-third were supplied to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service for distribution and the remainder to the seven luncheon clubs within the district. During the week ending 20th December 1968, nearly 2,000 meals were produced of which over 900 were special Christmas lunches.

The luncheon clubs have mainly been organised by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and the Old People's Welfare Associations.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE
(Divisional Administration) Scheme 1961

District School Population

The school population for the district at the end of 1968 was 24,711, this compared with a figure of 23,413 in December 1967 and 22,238 in December 1966.

School Medical Inspections

The following table gives the number of children inspected by year of birth.

Age Group (in year of birth)	No. of Pupils Inspected	No. of Pupils with defects requiring treatment (excluding dental and vision)	Ratio of Pupils with defects to pupils inspected
1964 and later	5	—	—
1963	1,407	121	1: 11.63
1962	1,732	88	1: 19.68
1961	186	7	1: 26.57
1960	51	4	1: 12.75
1959	14	2	1: 7.00
1958	12	2	1: 6.00
1957	835	8	1:104.37
1956	316	13	1: 24.15
1955	25	1	1: 25.00
1954	132	5	1: 26.4
1953 and earlier	1,145	21	1: 54.52
Totals	5,862	272	

B.C.G. Vaccination

School children continued to participate in the scheme for vaccination in order to gain protection against tuberculosis and the table on page 28 shows the vaccinations carried out:

Number of children skin tested	Positive Reactions at Preliminary Test		Number of children who received B.C.G. Vaccination
	Number	Percentage	
1,609 (962)	113 (75)	7.0 (7.8)	1,460 (817)

Convalescent Holidays

Fifty-four pupils received convalescent treatment under school health service arrangements.

Treatment of Enuresis

During the year on the recommendation of Consultant Paediatricians and Assistant School Medical Officers, 111 children were provided with enuretic alarms. The Clinic Medical Officers instructed parents and children on the use of the equipment and supervised the treatment.

Children were referred from the following sources:

School/Clinic Doctor
Hospital Paediatrician
General Practitioner
Child Psychiatrist

Provision of Chiropody Treatment for School Children

Under arrangements which existed prior to the transfer of functions chiropody was provided for school children as shown below:

No. of new cases treated during year	No. of cases being treated at end of year	No. of Clinic Attendances
134 (50)	28 (24)	558 (455)

Cleanliness Inspection in Schools

Cleanliness inspections continued to be carried out each term together with general hygiene surveys. Statistics are given below:

Total No. of Examinations	No. found infes- ted for first time in current year	No. found re-infested during current year	No. of informal letters sent
41,004 (38,777)	63 (54)	12 (10)	3 (nil)

Ascertainment of Handicapped Children

During 1968 no child between the ages of 5-15 years was 'ascertained' as blind, partially sighted, or deaf.

The number of children ascertained as requiring special educational treatment in other categories is as follows:

Deaf	1
Partially Hearing	2
Delicate	2
Physically Handicapped	4
Maladjusted	12
Educationally Subnormal	11
Epileptic	1

DEFECTS FOUND BY PERIODIC AND SPECIAL INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections										Special Inspections	
	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total (all groups)					
	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation
Skin Eyes	18	107	6	64	2	34	26	205	—	3	—	—
	47	147	26	75	34	53	107	275	1	6	—	—
	22	43	1	10	3	12	26	65	—	1	—	—
Ears	3	15	—	4	5	9	8	28	—	—	—	—
	10	86	—	9	1	19	11	114	—	1	—	—
	9	116	—	7	—	35	9	158	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat	3	74	—	8	2	5	5	87	—	—	—	—
	41	437	4	51	11	95	56	583	—	1	—	—
	24	98	1	5	—	11	25	114	—	3	—	—
Speech	2	97	—	11	—	15	2	123	1	3	—	—
	8	50	3	27	1	14	12	91	—	—	—	—
	22	65	4	16	—	19	26	100	—	—	—	—
Lymphatic Glands	14	22	—	1	1	3	15	26	—	—	—	—
	28	128	4	43	4	41	36	212	—	12	—	—
	1	11	1	19	1	10	3	40	—	1	—	—
Orthopaedic	28	136	1	28	2	41	31	205	—	2	—	—
	27	111	9	69	4	59	40	239	—	—	—	—
	—	8	—	2	—	4	—	14	—	—	—	—
Nervous System	2	56	1	7	4	16	7	79	—	2	—	—
	16	50	1	6	4	13	21	69	—	18	—	—
	9	166	1	19	3	51	13	236	—	11	—	—
Psychological	—	28	—	5	1	12	1	45	—	1	—	—
	2	7	—	—	—	—	2	7	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdomen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Ophthalmic Sessions**Statistics****(a) Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint**

No. of cases dealt with:

Errors of refraction (including squint) 1,670 (2,071)

(b) Provision of Spectacles

No. of children for whom spectacles were prescribed

587 (678)

Speech Therapy**(a) Pupils under treatment at end of 1968:**

At Infant Schools	47
Junior Schools	17
Secondary Schools	7
Special Schools	12
Under 5 years	22

Total	105
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(b) No. of pupils, other than (a), treated during 1968	44
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Audiometry**Statistics**

	Under 5 Years	5-6 Years	7-11 Years	12 Years and Over	Total
Routine Sweep Tests					
No. tested	—	2,053	303	3	2,359
No. failed test	—	38	9	1	48
Special Tests					
No. tested	22	90	93	36	241
No. failed test	7	33	41	14	95
Re-tests					
No. failed test	2	66	33	7	108
	2	21	16	2	41

Children referred to School Medical Officers:

	Under 5 Years	5-6 Years	7-11 Years	12 Years and Over	Total
(i) Children referred 'At risk'	2	—	—	—	2
Failed audiometric test	—	63	64	8	135
Referred by G.P.	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	63	64	8	137
(ii) Number in (i)					
(a) Found to have normal hear- ing	2	40	43	4	89
(b) Normal hear- ing returned after treat- ment	—	2	7	—	9
(c) Referred to E.N.T. specialist	—	7	8	2	17
(d) Referred to Audiology Clinics	—	1	—	—	1
For repeat audiogram	—	13	6	2	21

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Moat House Special School for Educationally Subnormal Pupils

Mr. Foulkes, the Headmaster, reports:

No. on Roll December 1968	126
No. ascertained as not suitable for education in school	2
No. left district	2
No. to Residential Schools	1
No. left school at 16+	20
No. of new entrants	26
No. left to ordinary school	1
No. on waiting list	4

Minor Ailments

During the year attention for minor ailments was given on 273 occasions.

Medical Inspections

There have been nine routine medical inspections held in the school in which 65 children were examined.

School Attendant

During the year the School Attendant escorted children to Great Oaks Clinic for the following reasons:

Eye Clinic	18 visits	28 children
Dental Clinic	29 visits	104 children
Chiropodist	12 visits	19 children
Local Doctor for Emergency Aid		1 child
Children taken home		12 children

Speech Therapy

During the past year, the Speech Therapist has dealt with the following cases:

Twice weekly sessions	6 children
Weekly sessions	6 children
Occasional Therapy for Observation	12 children

Child Guidance Clinic

Consultation has been made as and when required.

Convalescent Holidays

Eight children were recommended for convalescent holidays; six took advantage of the holiday provided.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

An extract from the report of Dr. Runes, the Medical Director, is set out below:

'We experienced considerable staff changes during 1968 again, mainly of Educational Psychologists. We obtained the services of one full-time and three part-time Psychologists, and this greatly helped in our work.

The vacancy of a Psychotherapist is still unfilled, but some help was afforded with the problem of our patients whose disturbance results in educational failure, by the re-establishment of Tutorial Classes.

I was able to continue the fruitful co-operation with the Paediatrician of St. Andrew's Hospital in the form of Joint Clinics, which are held alternately at Basildon and at the St. Andrew's Hospital Outpatients Department. As far as time allowed sessions were held at the Child Development Groups; also group meetings with Houseparents in charge of Family Group Homes run by the Tower Hamlets Borough and Essex County Council, were held in Basildon.

We were able to enlarge our Clinical Conference by occasionally inviting School Counsellors, Headmasters and Social Workers concerned with particular cases. We were in a position to introduce to child psychiatry health visitor students as well as medical students from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, by giving them the opportunity of visiting the clinic.

A permanent clinic was established in Thundersley, and this entailed the closure of the psychiatric sessions at the provisional clinic in Hadleigh, which is now solely concerned with the School Psychological Service.

As could be expected, the number of referrals increases annually on account of the fact that we operate in a steadily developing area. As regards cases there was an increase of referrals on account of school refusal, in particular of young adolescents. We found it again difficult to find places for these disturbed youngsters in hospital wards dealing with adolescents. Girls presented a particular problem as places for them are practically unobtainable. With younger children we were much better off as the two Psychiatric Units for young children in Essex were able to help us in urgent cases; admissions depended, however, on the size of their waiting lists.'

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

The Supervisory Dental Officer reports:

'This year has seen the continuation of the excellent service provided by the Dental Department for the relevant sections of the community. Yearly school inspections followed by fully comprehensive treatment embracing wide aspects of many fields of dentistry provided a service setting a very high standard.

Staff

The number of Dental Officers and Dental Surgery Assistants remained fairly constant during the year and although the Department lost the services of one very able Dental Surgery Assistant, it was able to replace her. Anaesthetics (General) were provided and administered by the same team of Anaesthetists as in the previous year, 1967.

Equipment of Clinics

New equipment was fitted where necessary in the Clinics, and this combined with some new furnishings and decorations, provided a more effective service and also more congenial surroundings for both operators and patients.

Staff Meetings

As in previous years the Dental Surgery Association were allowed to use the Clinic premises for their meetings, and many useful and interesting lectures were well supported by the Dental Surgery Assistants and their guests who included a high number of Dental Surgeons. These meetings are very successful in promoting good relations between the dental staff in the Clinics and the dental personnel in general practice and in the hospital service.

Courses

Permission and financial help was given to several members of the staff to attend Refresher Courses in different fields of dentistry.

General Treatment of Patients

This continued in the pattern set in the previous two years. Yearly school inspections followed by treatment in the Clinics involving conservation, Orthodontics and Prosthetics and the use of the Specialist services in the area provided a good service equal to the expanding demands of the relevant sections of the Community.

Dental Health Education was promoted by instruction at the schools and clinics and by effective poster displays in the clinics.'

Statistics

No. of Pupils inspected	No. requiring treatment	No. actually treated
24,769 (24,080)	8,196 (8,436)	6,004 (5,484)

No. of half-days devoted to inspection	457.6
No. of half-days devoted to treatment	2,167.6
Fillings (a) Permanent teeth	6,265
(b) Temporary Teeth	3,845
No. of teeth filled (a) Permanent teeth	5,719
(b) Temporary teeth	3,506
Anaesthetics	
General	1,975

Orthodontic Treatment

Cases commenced during 1968	87
Cases completed during 1968	77
Pupils treated with appliances	125

